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CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS

Durham, North Carolina

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See catalog.loc.gov for Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

ISBN 978-1-61163-398-6
eISBN 978-1-53101-167-3

Cover: Prayer Wheels, Buddhist Temple, Inner Mongolia, China, 2017
(PJ Stewart & AJ Strathern Archive)

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS, LLC
700 Kent Street
Durham, North Carolina 27701
Telephone (919) 489-7486
Fax (919) 493-5668
www.cap-press.com

Printed in the United States of America

To the Spirit of the Gift

Pamela J. Stewart (Strathern) and Andrew J. Strathern

May 2016

Augsburg, Germany

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About the Authors

Pamela J. Stewart (Strathern) and **Andrew J. Strathern** are a wife-and-husband research team who are based in the Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, and co-direct the Cromie Burn Research Unit. They are frequently invited to international lecturers and have worked with numbers of museums to assist these organizations in documenting their collections from the Pacific. They have worked and lived in many parts of the world. Stewart and Strathern have published over 50 books and hundreds of articles, book chapters, and essays on their research in the Pacific (mainly Papua New Guinea and the South-West Pacific region, e.g., Samoa, Cook Islands, and Fiji); Asia (mainly Taiwan, and also including Mainland China and Japan); Europe (primarily Scotland, Ireland, Germany and the European Union countries in general); as well as New Zealand and Australia. Their most recent co-authored books include *Witchcraft, Sorcery, Rumors, and Gossip* (Cambridge University Press, 2004); *Kinship in Action: Self and Group* (Prentice Hall, 2011); *Peace-Making and the Imagination: Papua New Guinea Perspectives* (University of Queensland Press with Penguin Australia, 2011); *Ritual: Key Concepts in Religion* (Bloomsbury Academic Publications, 2014); and *Working in the Field: Anthropological Experiences Across the World* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). Their recent co-edited books include *Exchange and Sacrifice* (Carolina Academic Press, 2008); *Religious and Ritual Change: Cosmologies and Histories* (Carolina Academic Press, 2009, and the Updated and Revised Chinese version: Taipei, Taiwan: Linking Publishing, 2010); and *The Ashgate Research Companion to Anthropology* (Ashgate Publishing, 2015).

Stewart and Strathern's current research includes the new subfield of Disaster Anthropology, which they have been developing for many years. They are the Series Editors for the new *Palgrave Studies in Disaster Anthropology*. Also, the topics of Cosmological Landscapes; Ritual Studies; Political Peacemaking; Comparative Anthropological Studies of Disasters and Climatic Change; Lan-

guage, Culture and Cognitive Science; and Scottish and Irish Studies are ones they continue to investigate.

For many years they served as Associate Editor and General Editor (respectively) for the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania book series. They currently edit three book series with Carolina Academic Press: *Ritual Studies*; *Medical Anthropology*; and *European Anthropology*; and they are the longstanding Co-Editors of the *Journal of Ritual Studies* (available through JSTOR and AtlaSerials). They also are the Series Editors for *Anthropology and Cultural History in Asia and the Indo-Pacific* with Routledge Publishing (formerly with Ashgate Publishing). They are on the editorial boards of the journals *Shaman* and *Religion and Society*.

They are the Co-Leaders of the University of Pittsburgh's Study Abroad program Pitt in the Pacific, which they developed from their contacts in the Pacific, especially at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Their web pages, listing publications and other scholarly activities, are: <http://www.pitt.edu/~strather/> and <http://www.StewartStrathern.pitt.edu/>.



Andrew Strathern and Pamela J. Stewart on Long Beach, Purakaunui, South Island, New Zealand, 6 January 2016 (Stewart/Strathern Archive).

Stewart and Strathern have been, respectively, Visiting Research Fellow and Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Durham, England. They are also Research Associates in the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (2003–present), and have continuously been Visiting Research Fellows at the Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan during parts of every year from 2002 to 2014

and have lectured at over five of the main Universities of Taiwan, giving visiting lectures every year to the present). They are affiliated faculty at the University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland (2015–present). They are frequently invited international lecturers and have worked with numbers of museums to assist them with their collections. They have served as Senior Visiting Fellows at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands (1998); as Research Visitor and Research Scholar (respectively), Minpaku, National Museum of Ethnology, Senri Expo Park, Osaka, Japan (2000 and again in 2014); as Visiting Scholars, Department of Anthropology, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (2006–2011); as visiting professors, Department of Anthropology, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia (1997–1999); and (2004–2005) as invited lecturers at a number of Chinese Universities: Peking University, Xiamen University, Shanghai University, Nanjing University, Fudan University (Shanghai), and Minzu University (Tongliao, Inner Mongolia). They jointly presented the 2012 DeCarle Distinguished Lectures at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand and have been Visiting Fellows at the University of Otago (2008, 2012, 2015–2016, 2018). They are Special Advisers to the Organization for Internal Cultural Development (OICD) (2013–present) and have served as Guest Lecturers on conflict studies and medical anthropology at the University of Augsburg, Germany (2014–2018).

Stewart and Strathern's wide international reputation is based on their extensive field research in a number of global arenas, including among the Hagen, Duna, and Wiru people of Highlands Papua New Guinea, with whom they have collectively worked for over 50 years.

Professor Andrew J. Strathern is recognized to be one of the most prominent early anthropologists to conduct research in these areas of Papua New Guinea. He learnt the local languages and used these extensively in his research. He was the only Cambridge University researcher to have achieved this level of linguistic expertise in Papua New Guinea at this time. He continuously worked in Papua New Guinea from 1964 to 1986, living there for long stretches of time. From 1984 onward numerous return field trips have also been made. He graduated from Cambridge University with his Bachelor's degree (B.A. with first class honors in Classics and Social Anthropology) in 1962, his M.A. 1965, and in 1966 his Ph.D., entitled 'Ceremonial Exchange in the Mount Hagen Area'.

Professor Andrew Strathern was the winner of the 1968 Curl Bequest Prize from the Royal Anthropological Institute for his influential essay 'Descent and Alliance in the New Guinea Highlands'. He won a highly prestigious Title A Research Fellowship to Trinity College Cambridge, for the years 1965–1969, for his 1965 Fellowship thesis, 'Descent and Group Structure among the

Mbowamb', the only such Fellowship awarded to a social anthropologist since A.R. Radcliffe-Brown in the early 1900s. In 1976 he received the Rivers Memorial Award for fieldwork, from the Royal Anthropological Institute, and in 1987 he was presented with the Papua New Guinea 10th Anniversary of Independence medal from the Papua New Guinea government for services to the nation.

Professor Andrew Strathern served the country of Papua New Guinea in the following positions:

1973–1976, Professor and Head of Department of Anthropology, University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and Visiting Professor (July–December 1977).

1981–1986, Director of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, Papua New Guinea Ministry of Culture, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and ex officio member of the National Cultural Council.

While working in Papua New Guinea, Professor Andrew Strathern also served as a board member of the Institute of Medical Research in Goroka, Papua New Guinea; a board member of IASER (Institute for Applied Social and Economic Research) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; and as a consultant for the Law Reform Commission in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. He also served as consultant anthropologist on seven ethnographic films produced about Papua New Guinea, including the world famous '*Ongka's Big Moka*' (with Charlie Nairn).

In addition to Professor Andrew Strathern's extensive work in academia and government (in the Ministry of Culture) in Papua New Guinea, he has also held appointments in a number of countries, including:

1965–1969, Research Fellow (Title A), Trinity College Cambridge, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.

1969–1970, Research Fellow, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

1970–1972, Fellow with tenure, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

1976–1983, Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology, University College London, London, England; and during this time he served also as a board member of the Social Anthropology Committee of the Social Science Research Council for the United Kingdom government, evaluating proposals for research and reports by researchers based in the UK.

1987–1988, Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Professor of anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

1988–present, Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

1996–1999, Director, Pacific Studies Institute, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia, with Dr. Pamela J. Stewart (Adjunct Lecturer of Anthropology).

Some of Prof. Andrew Strathern's well-known and influential writings include:

The Rope of Moka (1971, Cambridge University Press), Re-issued with a New Preface by Strathern and Stewart in 2007.

One father, one blood: descent and group-structure among the Melpa people (1972, Australian National University Press).

Ongka: A Self-Account by a New Guinea Big Man (1979). London: Duckworth, Re-issued and updated in 1999 as Strathern A. and Pamela J. Stewart (1999) *Collaborations and Conflicts: A Leader Through Time*. Fort Worth Texas: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Inequality in Highlands New Guinea (A. Strathern, ed., 1982, Cambridge University Press), Re-issued with a New Preface by Strathern and Stewart in 2008.

A Line of Power (1984, Tavistock Publications).

Landmarks: Reflections on Anthropology (1993, The Kent State University Press)

Body Thoughts (1996, University of Michigan Press).

And over 125 articles and book chapters in scholarly venues (e.g. *Man*, *JRAI*, *Oceania*, *Bijdragen*, *American Anthropologist*) and many, many book reviews.

Together Stewart and Strathern continue to work in globally emerging arenas of scholarly concern, with a concentration on developing a sub-discipline of Disaster Anthropology.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the staff at Carolina Academic Press who have assisted us in the production of this book. We also wish to thank the many people that we have worked with us in our global traverses, stays, and movements. In particular, we express our thanks to all the people who have collaborated with us in the field and at institutions where we have been based while conducting research and lecturing.

Sections of this manuscript were composed while staying in New Zealand as Visiting Fellows in the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, during a part of 2015–2016. We thank the supportive staff members and our colleagues within the Department, especially Prof. Glenn Summerhayes and Professor Richard Walter, for their assistance and conversations. We also thank everyone who helped us during our 2016 Study Abroad program, Pitt in the Pacific (University of Pittsburgh, Summer School at the University Otago campus—a study program that we created), which we were also running during our stay in Dunedin.

We worked on a part of the writing for this book while we were visiting as Invited Research Workers at the National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) in Osaka, Japan, for April, May and June 2014. We record special thanks to our sponsors, Director-General Ken-Ichi Sudo and Associate Professor Isao Hayashi, at Minpaku for assistance on our Disaster Anthropology work.

We also thank the Office of the Dean, in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, for continued support of our work in general, with very warm appreciation to former Dean N. John Cooper for the recognition he invariably gave to our specific projects in different corners of the world.

We also worked on this manuscript while we were serving as Guest Professors at the University of Augsburg, Germany, in 2015 and in 2016, teaching Master's courses in Medical Anthropology. We want to thank all of our

kind sponsors and helpers in Augsburg, especially Professor Guenther Kronenbitter, Dr. Ina Hagen-Jeske, Dr. Carolin Ruther, and Dr. Alma Duràn-Merk, of the Department of European Ethnology, and also in 2016 our kind sponsors in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Health Studies, Dr. Julia von Hayek and Professor Dr. Helena Bilandzic. Assistance from the Center for European Studies, University Center for International Studies, at the University of Pittsburgh, and its former Director, Professor Ron Linden, and subsequent Acting Director, Dr. Allyson Delnore, is also gratefully acknowledged.

The final pieces of this book were completed and the manuscript was made ready to send to the press while we were researching the June 2016 Referendum in the United Kingdom (UK) to exit from or stay in the European Union (EU). We have worked for decades in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland, so it was especially moving to be staying in those three locations in June, July, and August of 2016, during and after the vote for the UK to exit the EU. We have been following with great interest the economic, political, and social impacts of political change on the shifting shape and face of Europe today and what this means for the future. The surprise vote in favor of leaving the EU shocked many people and set a huge task for the 'Brexiters', who had played a leading role in advocating this new pathway, and for those political leaders who actually had to step in and handle the unanticipated consequences of the vote. It was evident that the turn of events demanded a great deal of creativity of an imaginative and mindful sort for the future. A mindful anthropology would also be needed to study this situation in all its ramifying complexities (for a fuller discussion on our concept of *Mindful Anthropology*, see Pamela J. Stewart and Andrew Strathern, *Breaking the Frames: Anthropological Conundrums*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

Thanks further go to University of Queensland Press for granting permission for us to use parts of Ch. 7 from our book, Strathern, Andrew and Pamela J. Stewart (2011). *Peace-making and the Imagination: Papua New Guinea Perspectives*, Brisbane: University of Queensland Press.

We thank also Professor Naran Bilik of Fudan University, China, for his collegial hospitality and stimulating discussion on ritual theory when we visited Shanghai, and Tongliao in Inner Mongolia, at his invitation in August 2017.

The copy-edited text of the book was checked in a number of locations, beginning with the dramatically scenic high altitude Rondon Lodge in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, where we were guests of the owner Bob Bates in December 2017 while working with him and the Western Highlands Provincial government on a project for the development of a new cultural heritage center for the Province. Proofs of the book were checked in Purakaunui in the

Dunedin area, New Zealand, while we were again based at the University of Otago and running our Pitt in the Pacific Study Abroad program for the University of Pittsburgh.

Underlining the importance of the topic of Disaster Anthropology, during this time Dunedin experienced its hottest temperatures ever recorded, and then severe flooding effects from Tropical Cyclone Fehi that swept across all of New Zealand.

Preface

The topics discussed in this book include ones that we jointly presented in 2012 as the De Carle Distinguished Lecturers at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand.

The De Carle Distinguished Lecturers are appointed yearly on an international competitive basis by the University of Otago, to give lectures with a wide-ranging scholarly and contemporary cross-disciplinary character. Our lecture topics were broad and wide-ranging as can be seen from the chapters that follow. We explored a creative mode of presentation and selection of the content. All lectures were jointly presented by us to a public audience, including students and faculty of the University. We are very pleased that Carolina Academic Press has worked with us to publish materials from these lectures and we thank them for their helpful professional assistance in the production of this book, aided by a subvention from the De Carle Distinguished Lecture fund at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Many of the lecture topics are listed here and many of these have been developed and enhanced further in this book and elsewhere:

“Disasters, the Cosmos, and Peace-Making”: This lecture entered into the new theoretical arena of Disaster Anthropology, arguing that there is a need to study the long-term as well as the short-term effects of environmental disasters, and to understand people’s own efforts to make peace with the environment and between themselves over time. The meta-pragmatics of local perceptions of the cosmos are involved in this process, just as they are in coping with violence and conflict-resolution.

The lecture on “Alternation of Violence and Peace-Making” processes in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea since the 1930s utilized the linguistic concept of meta-pragmatics to elucidate mechanisms of peace-making. Related topics were:

“Religion, Identity, and the Flow of Peace, Violence, and Existence.”

“Emotive Markers of Conflict, Peace-Making, and Diaspora Shifts of Identity.”

In this book we discuss in greater depth materials on the arenas that we have been developing, i.e., Disaster Anthropology, our recent work on Shamanism, and *The Body as an Instrument of Ritualized Expressions of Identity* as well as the importance of ritual in general in social life. Our work in the sphere of peace and conflict studies has largely been incorporated into an earlier publication (Strathern and Stewart 2011). At a broader level, however, a theme that links much of our work on conflict and our work on disasters is the importance of human creativity in the face of challenges to orderly life and in the work of rebuilding the cosmos. This creativity is also shown in the efforts made by people to remake their worlds in circumstances of Migration and Diaspora, to which we now turn.