



Who ?

**Intellectual Journeys
from Indiana
to Thailand
and in between**

**A Pictorial Academic
Autobiography of
Leslie E. Sponsel**

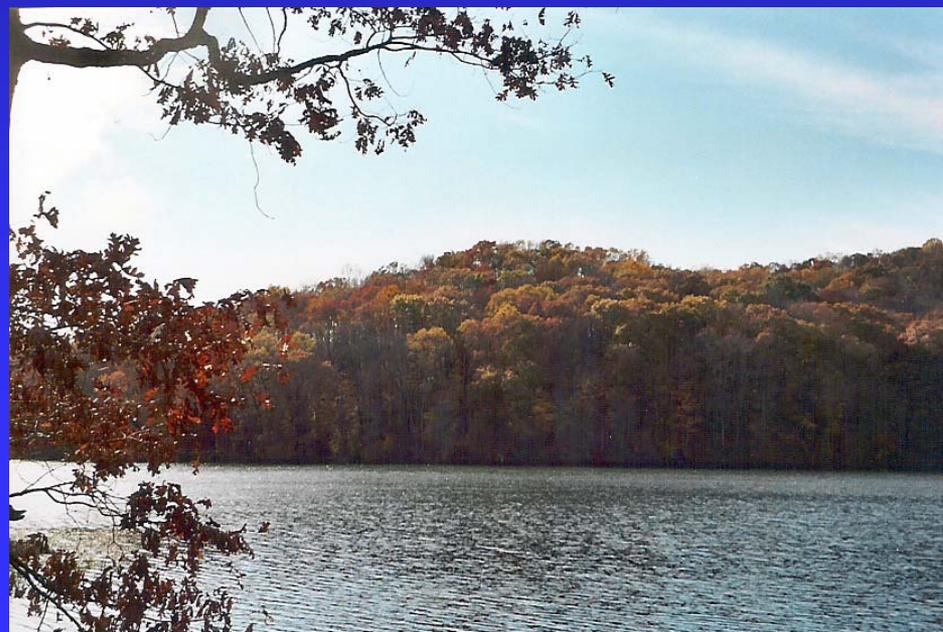
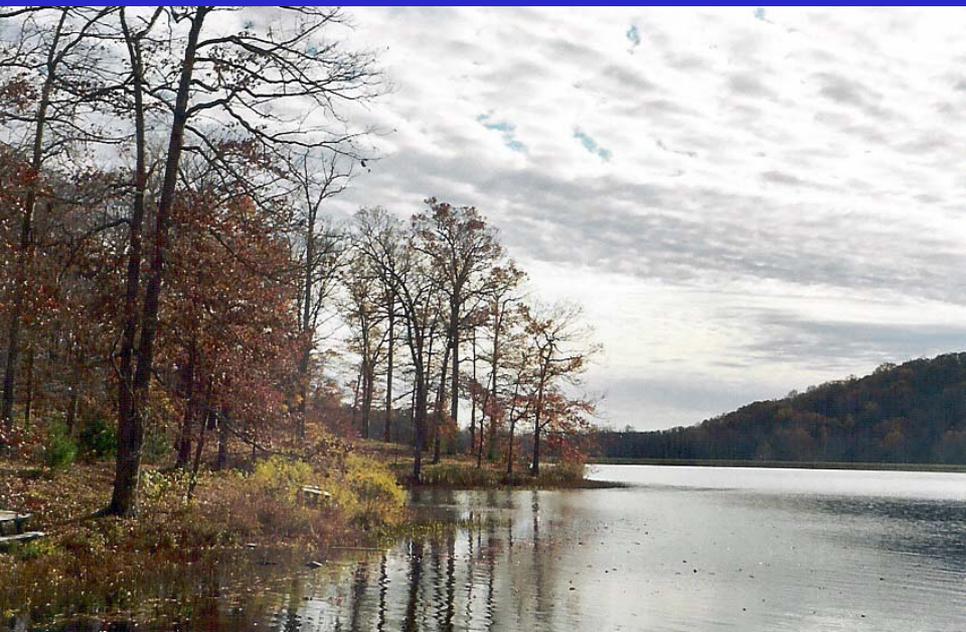
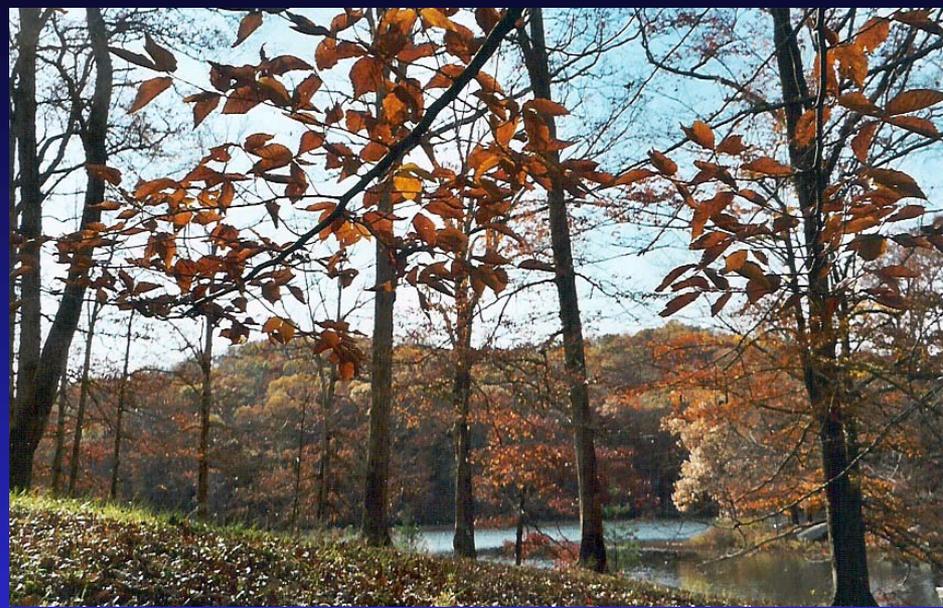
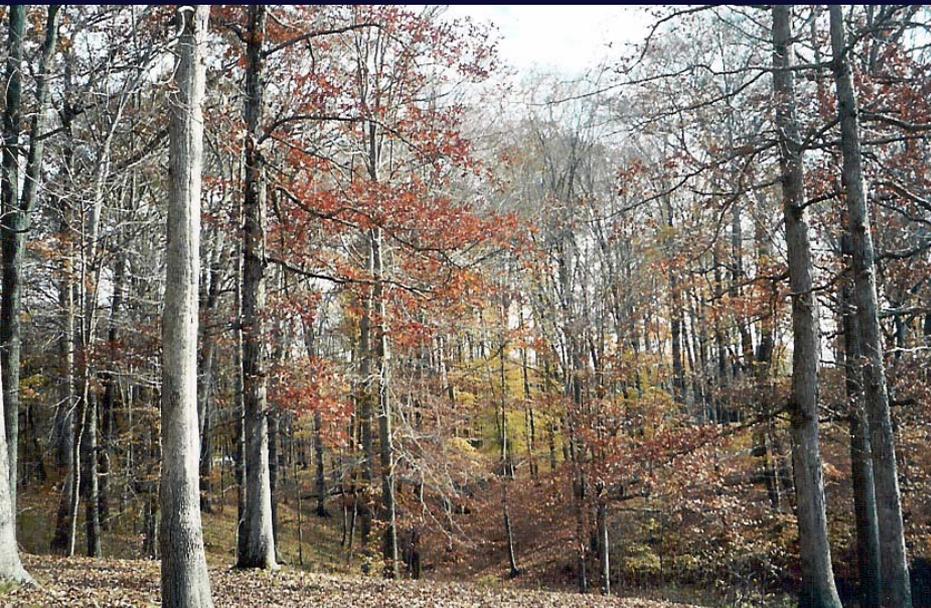


Childhood home in Indianapolis, Indiana





Family retreat at Yellow Wood Lake, Brown County, Indiana





The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I—I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost (1874–1963)



University degrees

- **B.A., Geology, Indiana U, 1965**
(geomorphology)
- **M.A., Anthropology, Cornell U, 1973**
- **Ph.D., Anthropology, Cornell U, 1981**
(biological and cultural anthropology)

**Indiana University Geology Department Faculty and Students 1964
(fourth in lower left)**



**Department of
Anthropology
Indiana University
Bloomington**



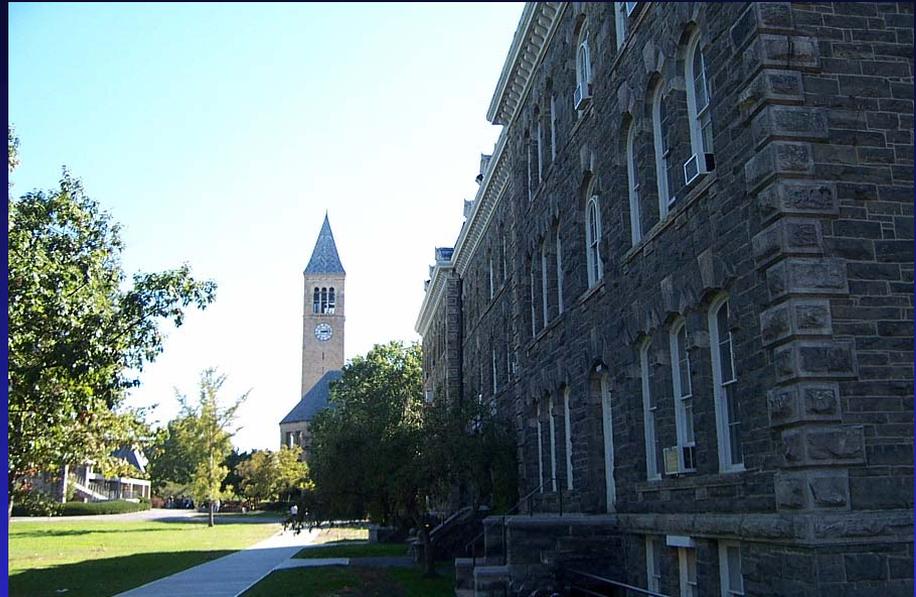
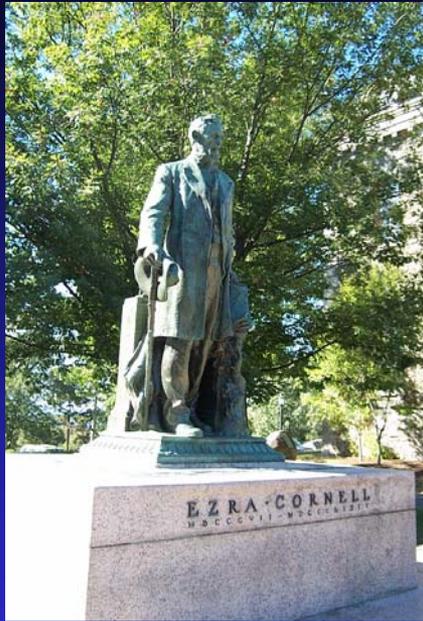
Main Professors

**Georg Neumann
(physical
anthropologist)**

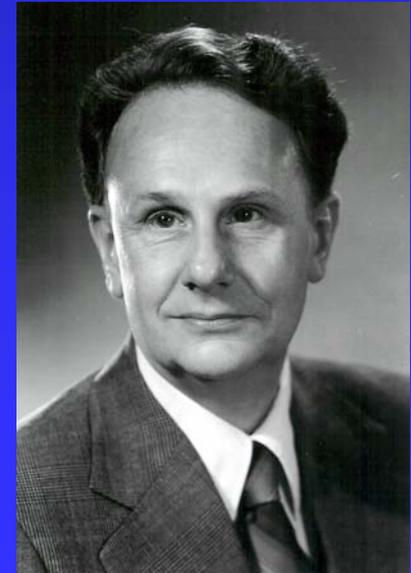
**David Bidney
(philosophical
anthropologist)**



Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY



Professor Kenneth A.R. Kennedy
(biological anthropologist)





Margaret and Ken visit Honolulu



Dr. Kennedy's retirement party







“What Goes on in the Minds of Biological Anthropologists? A Symposium in Honor of Kenneth A.R. Kennedy”

Symposium at the annual convention of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, November 20 , 2008

Photo by: Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

Participants:

Back row, from left: John Lukacs (University of Oregon), R. Brooke Thomas (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Brian Hemphill (California State University Bakersfield), David Aftandilian (Texas Christian University).

Middle row, from left: Michael Little (SUNY Binghamton), Cynthia Wilczak (California State University San Francisco), Nancy Lovell (University of Alberta), Angela Lierverse (University of Saskatchewan), Uzma Rizvi (Stanford University; reading for Gregory Possehl)

Front row, from left: Diane Hawkey - Session Chair and Co-organizer (Arizona State University), Kenneth A.R. Kennedy (Cornell University), Margaret Kennedy, Leslie Sponsel - Session Co-organizer (University of Hawai'i)

With Ken and Margaret in their study at home



Santa Sofia Island, Colombian Amazon, 1972



- 1974, "Evaluation of Squirrel Monkey Ranching on Santa Sofia Island, Amazonas, Colombia," *International Zoo Yearbook* (London) 14:233-240 (with several co-authors).
- 1974, "Progress of a Breeding Project for Non-Human Primates in Colombia," *Nature* (London) 248(5447):453-455 (with several co-authors).
- 1975, "Primate Ranching: Results and Implications," *Oryx* XIII(5):449-453 (with several co-authors).

Yagua People, Atacuari River, Peruvian Amazon, 1972



Awash National Park, Ethiopia, 1973



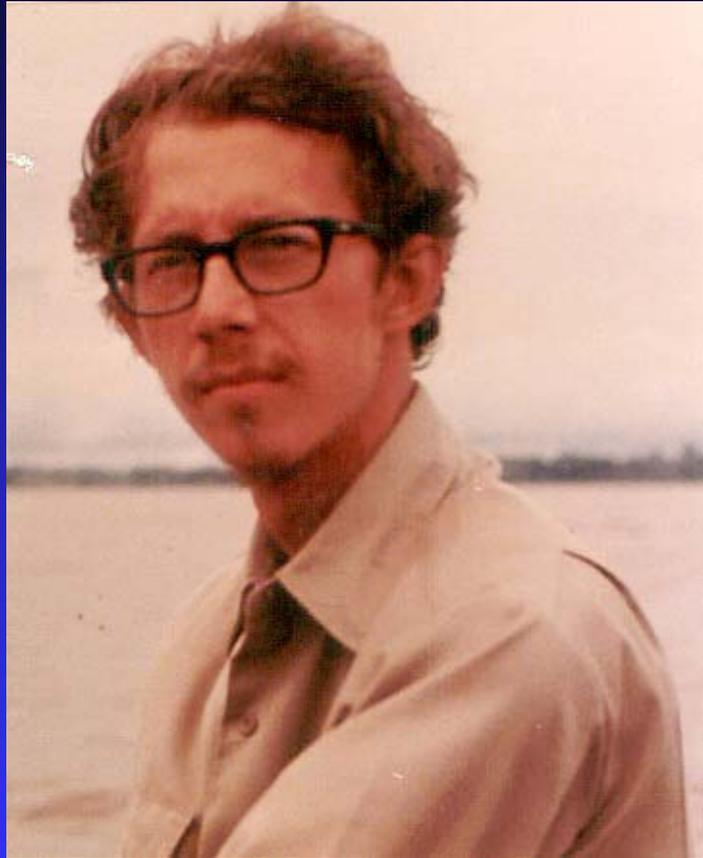
Ethnoprimatology

- Interface between cultural and biological anthropology, and between anthropology and biology



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- 1997, "The Human Niche in Amazonia: Explorations in Ethnoprimateology," in *New World Primates: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior*, Warren Kinzey, ed. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine de Gruyter, Ch. 9, pp. 143-165.
 - 2002, "Monkey Business? The Conservation Implications of Macaque Ethnoprimateology in Southern Thailand," (with Nukul Ruttanadakul and Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel) *Primates Face to Face: The Conservation Implications of Human-Nonhuman Primate Interconnections*, Agustin Fuentes and Linda Wolfe, eds., New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 14, pp. 288-309.

Amazon River 1972



IVIC, Caracas, 1974-1981



Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Investigations Caracas, Venezuela



**Dr. Nelly Arvelo-Jimenez
and Simeon Jimenez**

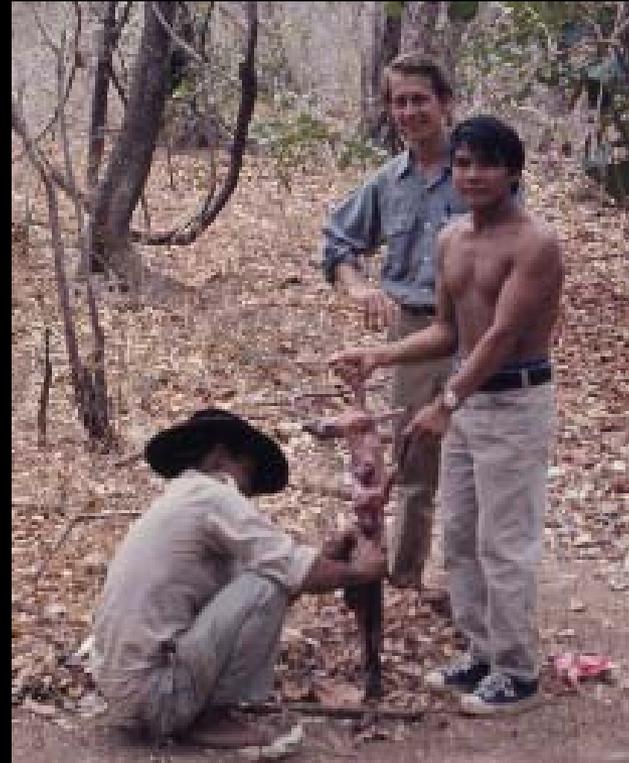


Gustavo Eskildsen, Venezuelan anthropologist



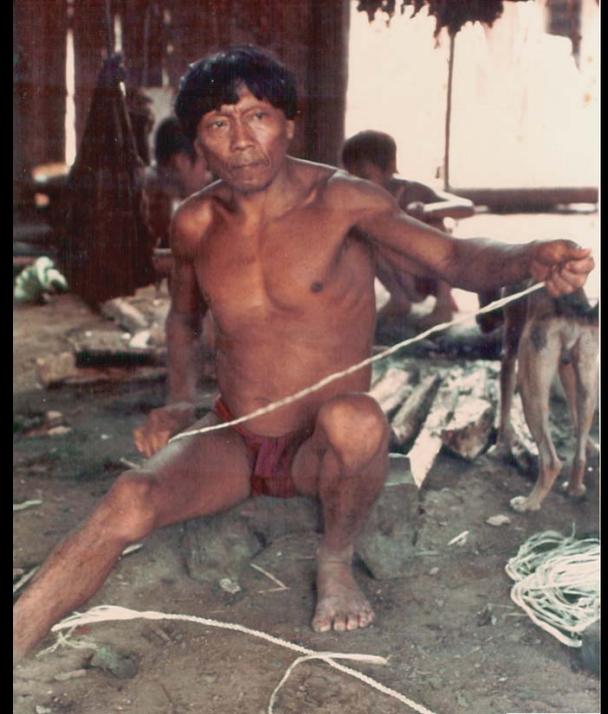


Hunting in Venezuelan llanos





Yanomami People, Eretrato River, Venezuelan Amazon, 1974-75







Cornell Doctoral Dissertation

*The Hunter and the Hunted in the Amazon:
An Integrated Biological and Cultural Approach
to the Behavioral Ecology of
Human Predation*

Ann Arbor, MI:

University Microfilms International, 1981

Amazon

- 1986, "Amazon Ecology and Adaptation," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 15:67-97.
- 1995, "Relationships Among the World System, Indigenous Peoples, and Ecological Anthropology," in *Indigenous Peoples and the Future of Amazona: An Ecological Anthropology of an Endangered World*, Leslie E. Sponsel, ed. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, Ch. 13, pp. 263-293.
- 2008, "Amazon: Environment and Nature" in *Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures*, Helaine Selin, ed., The Netherlands: Springer, Second Edition 1:757-762.
- 2011, "The Master Thief: Gold Mining and Mercury Contamination in the Amazon," in *Life and Death Matters: Human Rights, Environment, and Social Justice*, Barbara Rose Johnston, ed., 1997, Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press (Second Edition), Ch. 6, pp. 125-150.

Table 13.1 Paradigm Shift for Ecological Anthropology in Amazonia

Category	Past	Future
Ethics and politics	Covert	More overt and examined
Research emphasis	Knowledge as end in itself as good, i.e., basic research	Knowledge as means to an end; applied and advocacy research including systematic critique and lobby of government, missionaries, and other external change agents
Framework	Cultural evolutionism and salvage ethnography	Advocacy as well as ecology of adaptation: survival, well-being, identity, and self-determination
Environment	Static, pristine, homogeneous	Dynamic, heterogeneous, deforestation, indigenous environmental impact, historical ecology
Culture	Indigenous society as isolated, static, and pristine	Dynamic: interaction of indigenous and Western societies
Challenges	Uneven distribution and scarcity of natural resources; natural hazards	Western society and world system as hazards, in addition to natural resources and hazards
Focus	Subsistence economy as influences culture in interplay with environment and population	Political economy and human rights; market as well as subsistence economy, economic alternatives; resource use, management, and conservation; relations with nutrition, health, and demography
Audience	Academia and Western society, including state government	Indigenous society for empowerment and enhanced adaptation

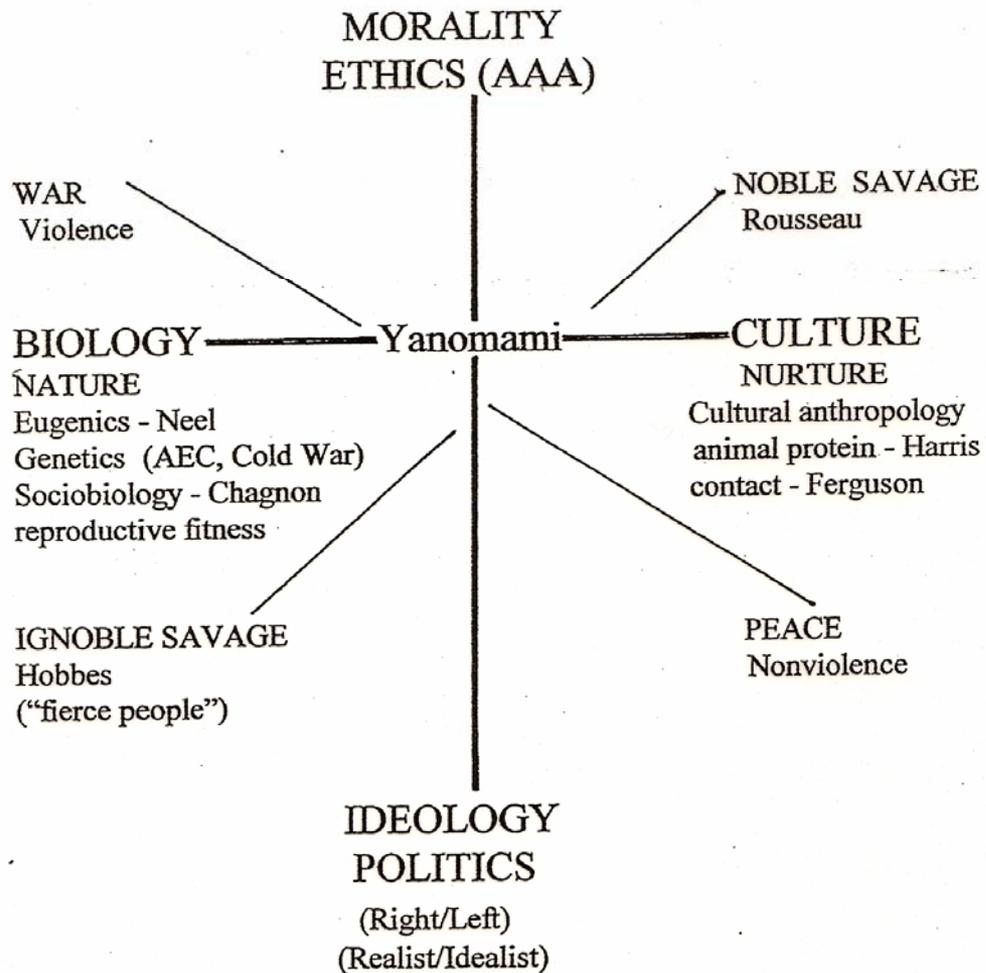
Yanomami

- 1994, "The Yanomamo Holocaust Continues," in *Who Pays the Price? Examining the Sociocultural Context of the Environmental Crisis*, Barbara R. Johnston, ed. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, Ch. 5, pp. 37-46.
- 1998 "Yanomami: An Arena of Conflict and Aggression in the Amazon" invited by editor Douglas Fry for special anthropology issue of *Aggressive Behavior* 24(2):97-122.
http://www.nku.edu/%7Ehumed1/darkness_in_el_dorado/documents/0603.pdf
- 2006, "Darkness in El Dorado Controversy" 2:667-673, and "Yanomamo" 5:2347-2351, in *Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, H. James Birx, ed., Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2010, "Into the Heart of Darkness: Rethinking the Canonical Ethnography on the Yanomamo," in *Nonkilling Societies*, Joam Evans Pim, ed., Honolulu: Center for Global Nonkilling, Chapter 6, pp. 197-242. <http://www.nonkilling.org/pdf/nksocieties.pdf>

Recommended books on Yanomami:

- Robert Borofsky, ed. - *Yanomami: The Fierce Controversy and What We Might Learn From It*, 2005
- R. Brian Ferguson – *Yanomama Warfare: A Political History*, 1995
- Kenneth Good – *Into the Heart: One Man's Pursuit of Love and Knowledge Among the Yanomama*, 1991
- Jose Antonio Kelly – *State Health Care and Yanomami Transformations: A Symmetrical Ethnography*, 2011
- John F. Peters – *Life Among the Yanomami*, 1998
- Alcida Rita Ramos – *Sanuma Memories: A Yanomami Ethnography in Times of Crisis*, 1995
- William J. Smole – *The Yanoama Indians: A Cultural Geography*, 1976
- Patrick Tierney – *Darkness in El Dorado: How Scientists and Journalists Devastated the Amazon*, 2000/2001

A Heuristic Model of Tierney's Darkness in El Dorado:
Territoriality, Competition and Conflict in/over the Amazon



Western contact/change
(trade goods > competition)
(epidemic diseases > revenge)

anthropologists, film makers, journalists, missionaries, miners (Hashimu)

Curripaco People, Rio Negro, Venezuelan Amazon, 1979-1981





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- 1993, "'Rivers of Hunger'?: Indigenous Resource Management in the Oligotrophic Ecosystems of the Rio Negro, Amazonas, Venezuela," (with Paula Loya) in *Tropical Forests, People and Food: Biocultural Interactions and Applications*, C.M. Hladik, et al., eds. Paris, France: UNESCO/Parthenon Publishing Group (UNESCO/MAB Series Volume 15), Ch. 36, pp. 435-446.