**The European Science Foundation *Forward Looks* programme,
Call for Topics 2006.**

A proposal submitted by Spain's ESF Member Organisation *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas* (CSIC).

Forward Look title:

ANTHROPOLOGY IN EUROPE.
Facing the Challenges of European Convergence in Higher Education and in Research. A Review of the Fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology.

Nota bene: This application paper has been written by: **Andrés Barrera-González**, profesor titular, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (e-mail: abarrera@cps.ucm.es). On behalf of the International Advisory Board and the Steering Committee, which have been set up to oversee and administer the project.

ANTHROPOLOGY IN EUROPE.
Facing the Challenges of European Convergence in Higher Education and in Research. A Review of the Fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

ABSTRACT:

The aim of this project is to map the discipline of Anthropology as it is practiced in Europe, within and beyond the academic field, with regard to teaching-training, and to the scholarly research carried out in the diverse 'traditions', schools and branches of the discipline. In so far as the present application is concerned, we propose to restrict the review to the fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology. However, we believe that this reviewing exercise should be extended to the other fields of 'General Anthropology' at some point. For the overall aim is to develop a complete picture of what Anthropology is and where it stands today, as well as to assess its potential for the future.

The interest in investigating the 'state of the art' and the scholarly legacy of the discipline is not merely antiquarian. One main purpose of this reviewing exercise is to identify the epistemological and methodological strengths of the anthropological approach. Thus, to be in a better position to ascertain the status Anthropology holds in the academy and in society. Anthropology is a discipline closely associated with a wide range of other disciplines. Therefore, it has great potentialities to act as a catalyst for interdisciplinary endeavours. Lastly, on the basis of the knowledge attained through the review, we aim at reaching a consensus with regard to the issues and themes that should be at the core of future research agendas.

Keywords:

Mapping Europe's Anthropology.
Social Anthropology and Ethnology.
Anthropology's research output.
Integrating anthropological research.
Devising a research agenda.

DESCRIPTION OF THE *FORWARD LOOK*

Scholarly rationale:

Anthropology (etymologically speaking: "the study or science of mankind") enjoys a special status among the academic disciplines. To begin with there is the ambition to take account of human issues from all perspectives, its holistic approach. Thus, the anthropological gaze tends to reach over a wide range of scientific and scholarly practices; from the Humanities, to the Social Sciences, to the Natural and Medical Sciences. Therefore, it holds the potential to act as a catalyst, bringing all these fields together in novel and fruitful ways. It also treasures distinctive epistemological and methodological features: long term fieldwork, 'participant observation', the comparative method. For these reasons, the work of anthropologists often overlaps with that of scholars from neighbouring disciplines. But this also demonstrates the inherently interdisciplinary character of the anthropological approach. On the other hand, this may explain the recurrent identity problems that have affected the discipline, its fragmentation in diverse traditions and ways or fashions in writing and research, plus its tendency to theoretical eclecticism in some instances. Problems that appear not just with regard to the classical 'four fields' or branches of Anthropology, but also within each of these individual branches. Consequently, if there is one discipline in dire need of a thorough assessment of its scholarly practices, it is Anthropology.

Aims of the *Forward Look*:

The primary aim of this Forward Look is to map the discipline of Anthropology, broadly defined, as it is practiced in Europe. However, in the present application we propose to limit and restrict our research endeavours to the fields of Social and Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology. We foresee that this project will take three years to complete, from 2007 to 2009.

There are two main dimensions to this scholarly exercise. On the one hand there is the task to carry out a thorough 'intramural' review of two fields or sub-disciplines of Anthropology, namely Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, as they exist and are enacted in the different countries and regions of Europe. On the other hand, there is the project to convene a series of workshops and symposia in parallel to the review process. As regards the review side of the project, it should be stressed that we are not proposing to undertake a conventional audit or external evaluation of the teaching and research output of individual professional anthropologists, and even less a collective audit of any sort. Instead, this will be an assessment to be done from inside the profession, the outcome of concerted action by a number of anthropologists themselves, in conversation and consultation with the widest spectrum of their peers, and the departments, institutes and professional associations they are affiliated to. To some extent, this scholarly exercise might be conceived as 'an ethnography' of the current teaching-training and research practices in Anthropology. In more general terms it could be seen as a partial contribution towards a sociology of science and academic life in Europe. Moreover, the assessment ultimately aims at setting the ground for an in depth exercise of scholarly reflection, across the diverse traditions and fields of Anthropology,

on the present state of the discipline and its likely future status in relation to other disciplines (namely, at this stage, those within the Humanities and the Social Sciences).

The proposed review has two clearly differentiated strands. One is quantitative, a survey like exercise, which will aim at collecting computable data on all aspects of the practice of the discipline[1]. The other is qualitative, a more 'ethnographic' exercise, which will rely on fieldwork research carried out in the 'anthropological way'[2]. Moreover, we envisage assessing the practice of Anthropology inside and outside the academic field. And we also contemplate making a special effort to take account of what is regularly designated 'applied anthropology'. Last but not least, this project aims at reviewing Anthropology as it is practiced throughout Europe. However, given the great variability and heterogeneity in traditions, schools, and academic arrangements within Europe (variability that often times is reproduced at the level of individual countries), the review is initially to be done on a country by country basis. This implies that a constellation of teams would have to be set up to produce the review in each country[3]. Of course, these independent teams will share general aims, collect comparable sets of data, and apply the same methodologies in doing their fieldwork research. As a culmination of this project, a global report for Europe as a whole will be produced, by relying on the data gathered via the partial country reports.

With regard to the series of symposia to be held, we plan to convene one annual meeting at least, which will make a minimum of three in the course of the Forward Look. The inaugural meeting in 2007 will be primarily devoted to designing and organising the review and survey referred to above. Thus, we will aim at reaching agreement as to what the project entails, the scientific aims to pursue, and the methodologies and techniques to be applied[4]. A mid-term meeting will be dedicated to discussing the preliminary results of the country reviews; as well as to checking on the progress made, and on the obstacles encountered, in performing the research and data collection. In 2009 we foresee holding a large closing conference, where the final results of the review will be presented, and thoroughly discussed by an appointed panel of senior and junior scholars. The other main purpose of this conference will be to debate the implications of the research findings for the future of Anthropology in Europe; as well as to find out what are the strengths on which the discipline may rely to successfully compete with other disciplines for a professional niche, in the emerging arena of the so-called European Research Area specifically. Finally, we intend to gauge Anthropology's ability to contribute effectively to collaborative multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research endeavours. Implicitly, the Forward Look aims to trigger and

[1] This part of the research will be done along the lines of similar surveys or reviews already carried out in specific countries (see, for example: Mills et al. 2005; Doyle, 2004; Roigé-Ventura, coord. 2005)
[2] There are not many precedents in this regard. But see, for an approximation to what we intend to do here, the reports: ESF-SCSS, 2005; ESRC-ASA-RAI, 2006; or again that by Mills et al. 2005, which is surely the most accomplished exercise, and one that is closest to what we have in mind; while it is limited to one country, it yet reviews the whole spectrum of the UK Social Sciences.
[3] Noticeable progress has already being made in this regard. An International Advisory Board cum Scientific Committee is already in place. It is composed of twenty senior scholars, fourteen of them affiliated to academic institutions from as many ESF member countries. A Steering Committee with members from four different countries is also in place. Moreover, a number of scholars have been already identified and approached as potential chairs or leaders of country/regional teams, who will take responsibility for researching and producing the respective country reports.
[4] We have already agreed to convene a workshop in October 2007, which will be hosted by the Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnologie at the University of Paris X -Nanterre, dedicated precisely to planning the review outlined here.

animate a wider debate on the challenges and opportunities the discipline of Anthropology is facing with the establishment of the European Higher Education and Research Areas; and beyond that, in a rapidly globalising academic arena. To sum it up, this project ambitions to make a substantial contribution towards the unfolding of a more integrated, robust and vibrant discipline of Anthropology.

Priority setting:

One objective to attain in the framework of the Forward Look is the elaboration of an agenda for collaborative research; a task that should be pursued in parallel with the production of the review. We propose that such an agenda should revolve around themes that are of significant import as regards Europe's (and the World's at large) contemporary scene. Furthermore, we will suggest that it should incorporate issues which are socially relevant, policy oriented where appropriate, and responsive to practical application; notwithstanding their expected theoretical high profile and methodological rigour.

As subject matter for debate, some tentative topics that are judged to merit being part of a priority research agenda would be advanced. The idea is to try to persuade professional anthropologists to make some serious efforts in identifying what may be the most promising areas and themes for research in the immediate future. It is also an invitation to undertake research on issues and themes that require the engagement of resources that are unique or distinctive to Anthropology. However, this is not meant to prevent the creative engagement with neighbouring disciplines, which is to be of benefit to all of them. A tentative and open list for a priority and collaborative research agenda may then include the following themes:

a) Citizenship in ethnically diverse polities.
b) Global migrations and social cohesion.
c) Language diversity and collective identities.
d) European integration, the cultural dimension.
e) Anthropology, development and NGOs
f) Culture, human agency and the environment.

Target groups and dissemination of results:

The results of this Forward Look would be of great interest primarily to the community of professional anthropologists, for it will be instrumental in strengthening and furthering the development of the discipline, in the academic field and beyond. It is also expected that this scholarly exercise will serve to enhance the public image of Anthropology, and to demonstrate that the discipline can contribute significantly to the grasping and understanding of fundamental social and cultural issues, as well as being of relevance in tackling many pressing problems of concern to society. Such a demonstrative and persuasive exercise ought to be done not just before policy and decision makers in educational and research institutions, but also before the public at large.

There are also specific plans for the dissemination of results; initially to the community of professional anthropologists, and then to the wider academic world and the general public. With this in mind, we plan to take part in the conferences regularly convened by professional associations such as EASA and SIEF, as well as in the meetings of selected national and regional associations across Europe. Furthermore, a website will be put in place at the start of the Forward Look, which will meet important needs as a tool for communication between the participants, as a forum for debate on previously defined topics, as well as in the development of the project as a whole. The written output derived from research carried out at different stages of the project will be published in the form of edited volumes, special issues in professional journals, and via the electronic newsletter which is to be published regularly while the Forward Look is underway.

A proposal submitted to the Wenner-Gren Foundation.
Workshop's Program. December 2006.

ANTHROPOLOGY IN EUROPE.

A review of the fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology.

Martine Segalen
Andrés Barrera-González

ABSTRACT:

This workshop will be the starting point of a project titled: *Anthropology in Europe. Facing the challenges of European convergence in higher education and in research. A review of the fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology,* which is planned to develop over three years, from 2007 to 2009. The overall aim of this project is to map the broad discipline of Anthropology as it is practiced in Europe. However, at a first stage we propose to restrict the review to the fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology. The project's ultimate objective is to draw a full picture of what Anthropology is and where it stands today, as well as to assess its potential for the future.

The interest to investigate the 'state of the art' and the scholarly legacy of the discipline in Europe is not merely antiquarian. One main purpose of this reviewing exercise is to identify the theoretical, epistemological and methodological strengths of the anthropological approach; thus, to ascertain the status of Anthropology in the academy and in society. In sum, the specific purpose of this workshop will be to plan and design the project mentioned above. That is, to provide the scholarly rationale, and the theoretical and methodological foundation for the whole exercise. The meeting will be attended by members of the Advisory Board and of the Steering Committee which have been set up to oversee and administer the project.

1. Rationale, aims and objectives:

Anthropology enjoys a special status among the academic disciplines. To begin with there is the ambition to take account of human issues from all perspectives, its holistic approach. Thus, the anthropological gaze tends to reach over a wide range of scientific and scholarly practices; from the Humanities, to the Social Sciences, to the Natural and Medical Sciences. Therefore, it holds the potential to act as a catalyst, bringing all these disciplines together in novel and fruitful ways. It also treasures distinctive epistemological and methodological features: the comparative method, 'participant observation', long term fieldwork. For these reasons, the work of anthropologists often overlaps with that of scholars from neighbouring disciplines. But this also demonstrates the inherently interdisciplinary character of the anthropological approach. On the other hand, it may account for the recurrent identity problems that have affected the discipline, its fragmentation in diverse traditions and ways or fashions in writing and in research, the tendency to theoretical eclecticism in some instances. Consequently, if there is one discipline in dire need of a thorough assessment of its scholarly practices, it is Anthropology. Yet, what we are proposing here is to carry out this exercise within Europe, in the context of the ongoing process to build the European Higher Education and Research Areas.

As stated in the abstract, the workshop is related to a larger project which, among other objectives, intends to carry out a survey and review of the fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology Europe wide. There are two main strands to this scholarly exercise. On the one hand there is the task of pursuing an 'intramural' review of the two fields or sub-disciplines just mentioned, as they exist and are enacted in the different countries and regions of Europe. On the other hand, there is the convening of a series of workshops and symposia in parallel with the review process. The Wenner-Gren workshop would be the inaugural meeting of this project, and it will be primarily dedicated to furnishing the scholarly rationale, the theoretical and methodological underpinning for the planned assessment. The convenors of this workshop have recently submitted an application to the European Science Foundation to obtain the basic funding for the overall research project. If this is approved, another workshop will be convened with the specific goal of designing and organising the survey and review referred to above, as regards the technical and methodological features of the same. The

second workshop would be attended mostly by the chairs or leaders and members of the national and regional teams who will take responsibility for carrying out the fieldwork research (in each of Europe's countries and regions) on which the review is to be based. The process of setting up these country teams is underway.

It should be stressed that we are not proposing to undertake a conventional audit or external evaluation of the teaching and research output of individual anthropologists, and even less a collective audit of any sort. Instead, this is an assessment to be done from inside the profession, the outcome of concerted action by a number of scholars, in conversation and consultation with the widest spectrum of their peers, and the departments, institutes and professional associations they are affiliated with. To some extent, such a scholarly exercise may be conceived of as an ethnographic account of the current teaching-training and research practices in Anthropology (Dracklé et al. eds. 2003, 2004; Hann et al. eds. 2005; Skalník, ed. 2000, 2002). Yet, it ultimately aims at setting the ground for an in-depth exercise of scholarly reflection across the diverse traditions and fields of Anthropology.

Taking into consideration the plurality of 'anthropologies' and 'ethnologies' present in Europe, we ought to stress the need to pay attention not just to the four 'great' and established traditions (Barth et al, 2005); but to the 'little' and emerging ones as well; as much to the 'hegemonic' as to the 'subaltern' strands (Ribeiro and Escobar, eds. 2005). Thus, inevitably, we would be entering the quicksand of academic politics, touching on what has been labelled as the 'political economy' of anthropological practice (see: WAN 'documents' at http://www.ram-wan.net). We will neither avoid critically re-visiting the old controversies on the associations of specific anthropologies with the colonial enterprise; nor those on the role of national ethnologies in the processes of nation and state building, and on the legitimising of totalitarian regimes in Europe and elsewhere (Bausinger, 1993; Vermeulen et al. eds. 1995; Ntarangwi et al. eds. 2006). To sum up, the project aims at triggering and animating a debate, within the bounds of the discipline, on the challenges and opportunities Anthropology is to face in the context of 'academic convergence' in Europe, as well as in a rapidly globalising world. We hope to contribute in this way to a more integrated and vibrant discipline.

2. **Themes and topics for discussion:**

As already stated, the workshop is linked to an ongoing project to review the state of Anthropology in Europe. Therefore, its main theme and goal will be to discern what the project entails (its scholarly rationale), the scientific aims to pursue in its development, and finally to agree on the particular objectives to attain with the country and regional reviews, and on the techniques and methodologies to apply to this end.

The proposed review has two dimensions. One is quantitative, a survey-like exercise, which will aim at collecting computable data on all aspects of the practice of the discipline: research, teaching-training, and applied facets. This side of the review will be done along the lines of similar exercises already carried out in specific countries (see, for example: Mills et al. 2005; Doyle, 2004; Roigé-Ventura, coord. 2005). The other is qualitative, a more 'ethnographic' exercise, which will rely on fieldwork and *in situ* research by members of the country teams to be established. There are not many precedents in this regard, and they all have limitations. For an approximation to what we intend to do here, see the reports: ESF-SCSS, 2005; ESRC-ASA-RAI, 2006; or again that by Mills et al. 2005, which is surely the most accomplished exercise, and one that is closest to what we have in mind; while it is limited to one country, it yet reviews the whole spectrum of the UK Social Sciences. On a different level of the reviewing process we may cite more narrative and theoretical contributions, for example: Barth et al. 2005; Bausinger, 1993; Bendix, 1997; Ntarangwi et al. 2006; Wallerstein, ed. 1996. Our own project aims at integrating all these aspects of a review, while intending to carry it out on a European scale. The aim of the workshop will then be to broach and deal with all these issues of form and content, theoretical and methodological, pragmatic and political that the review will entail.

As already indicated, the more technical aspects of the review will be dealt with in a different workshop, which is planned to be held with the chairs or leaders and members of the country teams. In this regard we intend to commission a preliminary report (or perhaps two, one for the field of Socio-Cultural Anthropology, and another one for the fields of Ethnology, Ethnography and Folklore studies) from some expert person. These reports will serve to frame the works and the debates to be carried out in relation to the

proposed second workshop. The issue here is nonetheless to discuss and agree on the types of measurable data to be collected, the databases to be built in parallel to the review process (such as monographs published in the last twenty-five years, PhD theses submitted and in process of being written over the last fifteen years, and so on), and the questionnaires to be devised and applied by the country teams during fieldwork. In regard to the questionnaires, it will be important to define to whom they will be addressed: to the chairs of Departments, Institutes and Academies; to actual or potential users of anthropological knowledge, such as governmental and non-governmental agencies, and so on.

As regards the purpose behind producing individual country reports first, one important consideration to make is that we are interested in investigating how 'national (or regional) anthropologies' relate to their particular historical, social and political contexts (Patterson, 2001; Skalník, ed. 2002, 2004). Moreover, at the continental level, we are interested in showing how the diverse 'great' and 'little' traditions, in the fields of Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, relate to each other in the context of Europe and in that of the World at large (Dracklé, et al. eds. 2003; Hann et al. eds. 2005; Goddard et al. eds. 1994). Last but not least, we intend to explore how European anthropologies have historically related to American anthropologies; and how they relate to the emerging African anthropologies, and the anthropologies of other post-colonial worlds like India, or Latin America (Ribeiro and Escobar, ed. 2005).

Another quite important matter for the development of the project will be that members of the Advisory Board (who will form the core of participants in this workshop) provide advice and assistance on 'fund raising' and in getting support for the project from relevant academic bodies, as, for instance, the recently established European Research Council. The practical viability and likely success of the project also relies critically on the support it may get from professional associations at the continental level, such as the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), the Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF), or the AAA's Society for the Anthropology of Europe. It will also be important to attain academic and moral support from professional organizations such as the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES). As regards the country reviews, it would be of great interest, indeed

indispensable, to have the support of the national and regional associations of anthropology in carrying out the review in their respective countries.

3. Workshop's program and structure:

In preparing for the October 2007 workshop, a selection of documents, papers, key published or unpublished essays, and all other relevant literature will be circulated and discussed by participants in the project and workshop. This will be done via the e-mailing list and/or through the project's website, which will be set up as soon as possible, with technical assistance from the Universities of Paris and Madrid. The e-mailing list and the project's website may also become useful tools for making available to all participants the 'working papers' mentioned above, and all other relevant materials; as well as for holding 'virtual seminars' prior to our meeting in Paris. Debate on the themes of the workshop (and of the entire project) will then be opened and substantially advanced before actually holding the scheduled meeting. Thus, the workshop may effectively be conceived as a culmination of the preliminary work towards setting the project on a firm footing; as well as a crucial starting point for its future development.

As regards the structure of the meeting, we may advance the following schedule and draft programme. We plan to hold four full working sessions, as follows: on Thursday, 25 October from 15:00 to 19:00; on Friday, the 26th from 9:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 19:00; and on Saturday, the 27th from 9:00 to 12:30. There will be a closing session on Saturday, the 27th from 15:00 to 17:00; and a preliminary session on Thursday, the 25th from 11:30 to 13:00. However, if we were to obtain additional funding for this meeting from some other agency or foundation (the ESF, for instance) we may consider expanding the workshop sessions a little bit. Then, we would ask non-local participants to arrive in Paris on Wednesday, the 24th. Therefore we could schedule a welcoming and get-together meeting for the evening of that day, and a full working session for Thursday morning. Besides, were we to get the ESF *Forward Looks* grant, we would immediately proceed to convene the above mentioned second workshop, planned to be held with the chairs or leaders and members of the country teams. This one will be dedicated to plan in detail the surveys and reviews to carry out in each of the countries

and regions of Europe where we will eventually agree to do them. As concerns the contents of each of these sessions, it is too early to say precisely what it will be, beyond the outlining of the themes and issues to be addressed for the workshop as a whole. Nonetheless, as soon as we have a better idea of what the specific contents of the sessions may be, who will be making formal presentations, and the specific roles assigned to particular individuals, the convenors will draw up a detailed programme for the workshop.

One issue to address during the workshop debates will be the outlining of collaborative agendas for research. The convenors would like to propose dedicating some time (part of the Saturday morning session, for instance) to discussing one such potential collaborative research agenda within the field of the Anthropology of Europe. This agenda should revolve around themes that are of significant import as regards the contemporary scene in Europe, which should not prevent them from being as well relevant for the world at large (Barrera, 2005). Furthermore, we would suggest that the workshop incorporates themes that are socially relevant, policy oriented where appropriate, and responsive to practical application; notwithstanding their high theoretical profile and methodological soundness (Ahmed et al. eds. 1995; Eriksen, 2006; Segalen, ed. 1989). Other participants could bring in alternative agendas for discussion, on any other issues and fields of their interest. The idea behind this proposal is that serious efforts should be made to identify what might be the most challenging and promising areas and themes for anthropological research in the immediate future. That is, to ascertain what research pursuits and themes may be enhanced if anthropology's distinctive and unique epistemological and methodological features and resources are engaged; notwithstanding the need to move towards creative engagements with a wider range of neighbouring disciplines.

There are also plans for the dissemination of the results of the workshop, and of the overall project, initially to the community of professional anthropologists, and then to the wider academic world. With this in mind, the steering committee plans to take part in the conferences regularly convened by professional associations such as EASA and SIEF, as well as in the meetings of selected national and regional associations across Europe. The output of research carried out at different stages of the project may be published in the form of edited volumes, special issues of professional journals, and via

the electronic newsletter which is to be published regularly while the project is underway. In what concerns this workshop, we may submit individual papers or integrated collections of papers to any of such professional journals as Current Anthropology, Social Anthropology or Critique of Anthropology.

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