

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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**Keebet von Benda-Beckmann** is head of the project group 'Legal Pluralism' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology at Halle, Germany. She is Professor of Anthropology of Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam and an honorary professor at the universities of Leipzig and Halle. Her research focuses on legal pluralism, disputing, decentralization, social security and natural resources in Indonesia, Nepal and the Netherlands. Publications include *The Broken Stairways to Consensus: Village Justice and State Courts in Minangkabau* (1984); *Coping with Insecurity: An 'Under All' Perspective on Social Security in the Third World*, co-edited with Franz von Benda-Beckmann and Hans Marks (1994, 2nd edition 2000), and *Mobile People, Mobile Law*, co-edited with Franz von Benda-Beckmann and Anne Griffiths (2005).

**Tilo Grätz** completed his undergraduate studies at Free University Berlin and received his Ph.D. in sociology in 1998 from Bielefeld University. He has worked in the past on issues of ethnicity, local-level politics and media in West Africa. He is a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, and has worked on a project on social and cultural aspects of artisanal mining in West Africa.

**Peter Just** is Professor of Anthropology at Williams College in western Massachusetts, U.S.A. He was educated at the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania. He has conducted research in Indonesia since 1980 and is the author of numerous articles on the anthropology of law and the Dou Donggo of eastern Sumbawa, Indonesia. His most recent book is *Dou Donggo Justice* (2001).

**Michael E. Meeker** is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego, and Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago (1970). He has done field work in Turkey in Trabzon, Antalya and Istanbul, principally from 1966–68 and 1986–88. He has written articles and books on poetry, society and religion among pastoral peoples as well as on social structure, local elites, nationalism and religion in provincial Turkey. Author of *Literature and Violence in North Arabia* (1979), *The Pastoral Son and the Spirit of Patriarchy* (1989), *A Nation of Empire: The Ottoman Legacy of Turkish Modernity* (2002) and *Social Practice and Political Culture in the Turkish Republic* (2004).

**Fernanda Pirie** was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology from 2002 to 2005, where she carried out research on conflict resolution in eastern Tibet. This followed a doctorate in social anthropology at the University of Oxford. She is now a research fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford.

**Simon Roberts** was educated at the London School of Economics (LLB, 1962; Ph.D., 1968) and has taught there since 1964, appointed Professor of Law in 1986. His early field research concerned local level disputing in Botswana. Latterly he has worked on dispute processes in the West. His current research includes work on alternative dispute resolution and a study of the growth paths of London commercial law firms (with Marc Galanter). Professor Roberts is on the editorial board of the Oxford Socio-Legal Studies Series and numerous law journals. He was General Editor, *The Modern Law Review*, 1988–95. His books include: *Order and Dispute* (1979); *Rules and Processes: The Cultural Logic of Dispute in an African Context*, with J.L. Comaroff (1981); *Understanding Property Law*, with W.T. Murphy and T. Flessas (1987, 4th edn 2004); and *Dispute Processes*, with M. Palmer (2005).

**Jonathan Spencer** is Professor of the Anthropology of South Asia at the University of Edinburgh. He has carried out fieldwork in Sri Lanka since the early 1980s, concentrating at first on rural change and local politics, but writing more recently on ethnic conflict, political violence and political non-violence. He has just completed a book on the anthropology of 'the political' in South Asia, and has been carrying out new research on the institutional history of British anthropology.

**Bertram Turner** studied social anthropology, physical anthropology and ancient history at the University of Munich and took his M.A. there in 1986. He received his Ph.D. in social anthropology from the University of Munich in 1996. He was academic assistant at the Institute of Social Anthropology and African Studies in Munich between 1993 and 2001 where he taught anthropology with special reference to legal anthropology. He has also held university teaching positions in Munich and Leipzig. He has been carrying out fieldwork in Morocco since 1996. Since 2001 he has been a senior researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle. Bertram Turner studies the management of natural resources in a plural legal constellation in south-west Morocco, and has recently published *Asyl und Konflikt von der Antike bis heute* (2005).

**Aimar Ventsel** received his BA in Anthropology and History at the University of Tartu and an MA in the same subjects at the Free University Berlin, Germany. In 2005 he received his Ph.D. in social anthropology from the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle and Martin Luther University, Halle, Germany. The focuses of Ventsel's research are social change and the transformation of property rights in Siberia, Russia. Ventsel is now a senior researcher at the Estonian Literary Museum and a member of the project group there studying changes in post-socialist societies.