

Kevin W. Crooks
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am interested in researching and analyzing different anthropological approaches to development and HIV/AIDS education in China. Additionally, I intend to apply my research and analysis to first hand experience as an intern with a development organization in China. As development organizations such as the Clinton and Ford Foundations and various UN projects continue to grow and influence people around the world, the need for Anthropological examinations of the impacts these entities have on local cultures is becoming increasingly important.

My project involves my working with "China Youth Network," a China-born, UN-funded NGO that specializes in work with local organizations and youth. They focus on sexual and reproductive health among young people, working largely with HIV/AIDS education and prevention. In assisting the organization, I would consider different anthropological perspectives on development in general and accounts of HIV/AIDS in China.

Of the things that I would hope to gain from this experience, most important to me would be a developed understanding of the independent and experiential sides of scholarship. As an Anthropology major, my proposed project serves as an introduction to fieldwork, a cornerstone and defining aspect of the discipline. It would help me improve my research skills as well as assist me in gaining valuable experience in the application of theoretical knowledge.

Sincerely,
Kevin Crooks

Project

I am completing a lot of the preparatory research for this project as a student in Charlene Makley's "Development in China" class. I am researching China Youth Network specifically, as well as culturally specific approaches to development and HIV/AIDS education and prevention in China on a broader scale. I am looking at ethnographic accounts of HIV/AIDS impact in China, such as Eating Spring Rice: The Cultural Politics of Aids in Southwest China, which provides a local account of the impact of HIV/AIDS in rural China (Hyde: 2007). I am also researching accounts that provide a broader picture of HIV/AIDS in China, such as reports by UNAIDS.

Having done this preparatory research, I would go to Beijing in early June and immediately begin working with China Youth Network. My primary contact for this project is a woman named Lily Mian. She is an editor assistant at China Development Brief, an English-language publication in China that reports on development programs and organizations throughout the country. She also volunteers at China Youth Network and has offered me an internship at that organization on behalf of the organization's coordinator. My work would consist of either helping write a "working report" for the organization or helping to "develop a work plan [for] the next few years."

I would spend June and July working with China Youth Network. While there, I would review the research I had already completed and limited textual material that I would bring with me or would be available on-line. This would occur in conjunction with the hands-on work that I would be doing with the organization. In late July, I would return to Reed where I would do further research and write my report. By situating my work in China between two periods of research I am able both to begin hands on work with development from an educated perspective and do further research with the benefits of the hands-on experience.

With many development organizations emphasizing the importance of culturally specific methods, anthropologists need to consider the ways in which different groups evaluate Chinese culture. It is important identify competing notions of what "Chinese development" entails. This question has become increasingly complex as more organizations are now being founded in China by Chinese individuals. Inasmuch as it incorporates constructive cooperation with a Western-style development organization, this project rejects anthropological perspectives that discount development outright, leaving no space for a more sophisticated evaluation of the different kinds of cultural forces that are operating on a local level. With my project I hope to explore this space of critical analysis through research into development and HIV/AIDS education and prevention and through hands-on work with an organization that focuses on these topics.

Other preparatory coursework I will have completed by the summer includes a full year Mandarin Chinese and an introductory course to the religions of China. The latter class provides me a more historical-anthropological approach to Chinese culture. In 2003 I spent two months in Nicaragua working with local community leaders to build latrines and organize community based initiatives, namely Spanish reading classes. Lastly, in

2005, as the president of my senior class, I assisted my high-school's strategic planning committee in crafting a development plan.

Contact list

Lily Mian
China Youth Network
Volunteer
China Development Brief
Editor assistant
Website-www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com
Tel: 86-10-84022532 Ext. 25

Nick Young
China Development Brief
Founding Editor
Website-www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com

Working Bibliography

Adams, Vincent and Stacy Leigh Pigg. Sex in Development. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.

China AIDS Info. China HIV/AIDS Directory. 2005.
<http://www.china-aids.org/english/China%20AIDS%20Directory%202005.pdf>

China Development Brief. "Lowered HIV estimate is no cause for complacency, says UNAIDS" 2006.
<http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/node/434>

De Sardan, Jean-Pierre Olivier. Anthropology and Development. New York, NY: Zed Books Ltd, 2005.

Edelman, Marc and Angelique Haugerud, editors. The Anthropology of Development and Globalization. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2005.

Fan, Jie. Rural China: economic and social change in the late twentieth century. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2006.

Gardner, Katy and David Lewis. Anthropology, Development and the Post-modern Challenge. Sterling, Virginia: Pluto Press, 1996.

Hyde, Sandra Teresa. Eating Spring Rice: The Cultural Politics of Aids in Southwest China. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.

Jing, Shao. "Fluid Labor and Blood Money: The Economy of HIV/AIDS in Rural Central China." Nov. 2006.
<http://www.anthrosource.net/doi/pdfplus/10.1525/can.2006.21.4.535?cookieSet=1>

McDonald, James H. editor. The Applied Anthropology Reader. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002.

Schneider, Mark and Michael Moodie. The Destabilizing Impacts of HIV/AIDS. Washington DC: CSIS HIV/AIDS Task Force, 2002.

UNAIDS Report on the global AIDS epidemic. Geneva: UNAIDS, 2006.

UNESCO. A Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care. Paris: UNESCO, 2001.

United States. Congressional-Executive Commission on China. "China's mounting HIV/AIDS crisis: How should the United States respond?" Oct. 2003.

Yang H. Heterosexual transmission of HIV in China: a systematic review of behavioral studies in the past two decades. Sexually Transmitted Diseases. 2005.

Resume of Education and Work Experience

Education:

Anthropology

ANT 211, Introduction to Anthropology, Fall 2006
ANT 365, Development in China, Spring 2007

Art

ART 201, Introduction to Art History, Fall 2005

Chemistry

CHEM 101, Molecular Structure and Properties, Fall 2005
CHEM 102, Chemical Reactivity, Spring 2006

Chinese

CHIN 110, First-Year Chinese, Fall 2006 / Spring 2007

Literature

LIT 401, Applied Literary Criticism, Spring 2007

Spring 2006	LIT 389, Post communist Russian Literature, Film and Society,	
Humanities	HUM 110, Western Humanities, Fall 2005 / Spring 2006	
Religion	REL 157, Idea Systems of Chinese Religion, Fall 2006 REL 155, Introduction to Islam, Spring 2007	
Spanish	SPAN 321, Theory and Practice of Hispanic Literature, Fall 2006	
Theatre	THEA 310, Techniques of Contemporary Acting, Spring 2006 THEA 161, Creative Ensemble Spring 2007	
Work:		
Reed College		9/05 - present
• Audiovisual; set up sound and visual equipment		
North Ridge Nursing Home, Minneapolis, Minnesota		8/04 - 8/05
Nutrition Aid		
• Food preparation and delivery for residents		
Volunteering:		
Amigos de las Americas: Chinandega, Nicaragua		Summer '03
• Help community build latrines and improve sanitation practices		
• Help strengthen inter-community communication and organizational methods		
Other:		
Mounds Park Academy, St. Paul, Minnesota		9/04 - 6/05
President of the class of 2005		
• Student representative working with the school's strategic planning committee to craft the school's five-year development plan		

Budget

Airfare- Roundtrip from Portland to Beijing	\$ 1,300
Lodging in Beijing (\$350/ month)	\$ 700
Food in Beijing	\$ 250
Local Transportation	\$ 200

Lodging in Portland	\$ 300
Food in Portland	\$ 150
Incidentals (including Visa fee, potential work related expenses, etc.)	\$ 100
Total:	\$ 3,000