“Morality, Empathy, and Pain: Some Phenomenological Anthropological Considerations.”

Jason Throop
UCLA
January 10, 2018, 5:30-7:00
Building 50, Room 51A

This talk will work to shed light on the complex relation between ethics and empathy through examining a concrete ethnographic example of local therapeutic responses to a young girl’s lived pain on the island of Yap, a small volcanic island located in the Western Pacific Ocean. Drawing from phenomenological insights into the embodied existential asymmetries that define intersubjective encounters, as well as related phenomenological analyses into the role that touch plays, the talk will explore the complexities of “feeling” or “touching” another’s pain.

*Jason Throop is Professor and Chair at the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles where he specializes in the fields of medical and psychological anthropology. He is the author of the book Suffering and Sentiment: Exploring the Vicissitudes of Experience and Pain in Yap (2010, University of California).*

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**Cultures, Minds and Medicines**

The Cultures, Minds and Medicines workshop series meets four to five times each term on Wednesdays from 5:30-7 for dinner and talks about culture and healing. We hear from artists, scientists, ethnographers, literature scholars and more, with the goal of understanding not only what they say, but also what counts as data for them and how they understand their task in communicating to their primary audience. Talks take place in Anthropology, Building 50, room 51A (the conference room).

The workshop is associated with a certificate program for graduate students. Students must attend the biweekly workshops in Cultures, Minds and Medicines over the course of a year, and take at least one relevant course outside of their degree-granting program, as approved by the faculty certificate committee. In most cases, non-anthropologists should enroll in a graduate level anthropology course, and anthropologists should enroll in a course in medicine, psychology or some other discipline.

For students enrolled in the class each quarter, the requirement is to attend the workshops.

**Winter 2018 Seminars:**

Jan. 17: Carey Morewedge (Boston University)
Jan. 31: Lera Boroditsky (UCSD)
Feb. 14: Gabriella Safran (Stanford University)
Feb. 28: Sarah Iles Johnston (The Ohio State University)