

omy and social structure. A final chapter offers comparison with other studies on thematic points.

There are no surprising findings (which says something positive for precursors of this work), but the skilful presentation of the complex of forces affecting people and social systems is humanly sensitive. The author weaves together the intricate tapestry shaping both institutions and individual decisions, perhaps best exemplified in discussion of the "transnational" character of family and kindred. The work clearly illustrates that "migration is always only one of a complex of pressures affecting agriculture in sending areas" (p. 171). Critique of Meillassoux's model—a recurrent and overemphasized issue in the monograph—is predicated upon the relatively high incidence of women migrating from the Dominican Republic, and on evidence that Dominican migration eventually relocates family members who are unproductive, thus transferring reproduction costs from the sending community to capital.

A short review cannot attend to the many positive points of this book, but they are self-evident. Shortcomings may be less so, however. Of the three "intermediate processes" set out in the introduction, household organization is treated reasonably well. Network composition is not analyzed, but cases of family and kin connections involved in migration decisions are replete. And local class formation enters the analysis only superficially, limited to cultural criteria and devoid of dynamic and of the theoretical rigor expected of a political-economy approach. No mention is made of local reaction to recruitment of Haitian workers at half the going wage! "Local" impact of remittance and return migration is difficult to evaluate because Los Pinos and Santiago (destination of many return migrants) are not effectively differentiated. Confused expression of manioc production (Table 5.1, and p. 173) disturbs an otherwise effective analysis of agricultural production. A glossary would greatly assist readers unfamiliar with Spanish.

Despite a few annoyances, and the fact that the work does not fully live up to the objectives set in the introduction, this book merits attention of anyone concerned with international labour migration.

Social Anthropology and Public Policy in Northern Ireland

Hastings Donnan and Graham McFarlane

Brookfield, Vermont: Gower, 1989. xii + 152 pp. \$42.95 (cloth)

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The relationship between anthropology and public policy is receiving increasing attention in research and teaching. This reflects not only a relatively conservative political economy in Western society and a very tight job market in the discipline, but also a new wave of concern with "relevance" and so-called applied approaches. In this context, the present volume is of particular interest. It is a collection of six cases which illustrate links between social anthropology and policy by using a range of topics (unemployment, gender relations, housing, community care-giving and government subsidies) gleaned from research which ran the gamut

from interest-based "pure research" to evaluative research paid for by social agencies. Together, the cases provide a good empirical overview of the kind of policy work being done by social anthropologists.

By reviewing key issues which emerge when anthropologists become involved with public policy, the editors' excellent Introduction provides the themes which become the central foci of the subsequent case studies. Specifically, the editors explore three issues in ways which make this book interesting for the professional and ideal for use in a course on public policy. First, they provide an overview of the various ways in which social anthropology articulates, both indirectly as well as intentionally, with public policy concerns. Secondly, they explore the stereotypes and realities which underlie the "culture clash" which permeates relations between social anthropologists and policy professionals. Thirdly, they describe the nature of relevant research in Northern Ireland in order to show how "major trends" in anthropology/public policy "have interacted with more local factors to produce a particular set of responses to the major problems" (p. 14).

It is the location of general issues within a particular context which makes the volume so valuable. As well, all the contributors address at least some of the points made in the Introduction, and this gives the book good overall coherence. For example, a theme running through many of the papers is the difficulty (but importance) of building qualitative research techniques into policy research, given the hesitancy of policy makers to accept the validity to findings not based on so-called "hard data." Another is whether policy-oriented anthropology can contribute to the development of theory in social anthropology itself. For both these examples, contributors begin to show how it can be done.

The editors note that most research in social anthropology has policy implications. Although this fact takes on a certain immediacy in Northern Ireland, the editors correctly intend their point to be far more generally applicable. Indeed, while the context of Northern Ireland gives intellectual depth to this volume, the editors and contributors deftly make it clear that the issues and themes are applicable to contexts where division is more subtle than it is in Northern Ireland. The sectarian divide is an issue but not *the* issue; it is ever present, but so are other central realities such as unemployment, decaying housing estates, gender oppression, disablement and skewed government patronage. This interplay between the Northern Ireland context, the well-chosen themes and the case studies gives this book a validity and a special strength.

Finally, I should add that, for the Canadian reader and/or student, there is enough ethnographic background to make the materials intelligible and the book very usable.