

# REVIEWER MEETS REVIEWED

SEMINAR SERIES AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM'S CENTRE FOR ANTHROPOLOGY

## Anthropology and Expertise in the Asylum Courts

**When:**

Thursday 24th March 2011 @

10.00 am

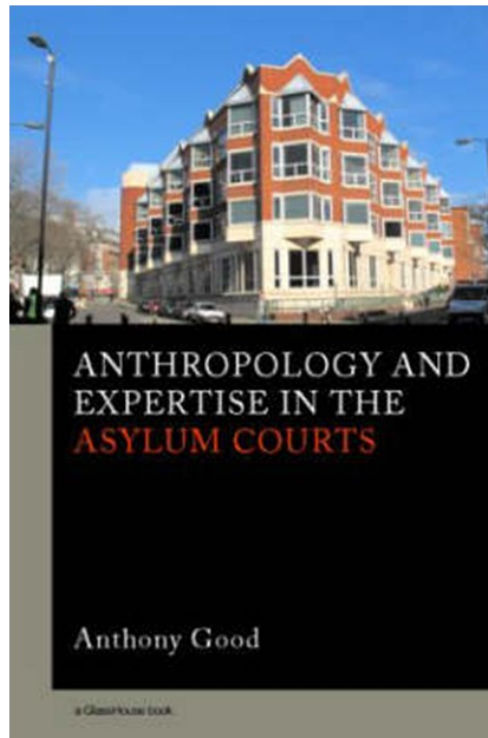
Tea & Coffee served from

9.30am

**Where:**

Centre for Anthropology,  
British Museum

This is a FREE  
event



**Who:**

Reviewed: Professor Anthony Good, Professor Emeritus Social Anthropology, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh.

Reviewer: Dr. Tobias Kelly, Senior Leturer, Social Anthropology, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh.

The British Museum's Centre for Anthropology, in collaboration with the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), is delighted to present for the 3<sup>rd</sup> seminar of the series a discussion between Prof. Antony Good author of '*Anthropology and Expertise in the Asylum Courts*' and Dr. Tobias Kelly who reviewed the work for the JRAI.

Although asylum has generated unparalleled levels of public and political concern over the past decade, there has been astonishingly little field research on the topic. This is a study of the legal process of claiming asylum from an anthropological perspective, focusing on the role of expert evidence from 'country experts' such as anthropologists. It describes how such evidence is used in assessments of asylum claims by the Home Office and by adjudicators and tribunals hearing asylum appeals. It compares uses of social scientific and medical evidence in legal decision-making and analyzes, anthropologically, the legal uses of key concepts from the 1951 Refugee Convention, such as 'race', 'religion', and 'social group'. The evidence is drawn from field observation of more than 300 appeal hearings in London and Glasgow; from reported case law and from interviews with immigration adjudicators, tribunal chairs, barristers and solicitors, as well as expert witnesses.

**Bookings / Enquiries:** Jasmine Wakeel ([jwakeel@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:jwakeel@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk))