The Ethnographer’s Place: Fifteen Uneasy Years with Sinixt Political Ascetics

Paula Pryce

Friday, November 14
2:00 – 3:00 PM
PLS 102 (Anthropology Seminar Room)

The continuing harsh effects of colonialism create ethical problems for anthropologists who work with indigenous peoples in North America. Paula Pryce encountered many obstacles in her relationship with Sinixt Interior Salish (or Lakes) people, and learned to tread lightly. Only after considerable time was she able to enquire about sensitive issues, such as ascetic practices, alongside political and legal concerns. Paula will discuss her struggle to describe concepts of death and time, and especially experiences of ancestral contact, in theoretical ways which allow Sinixt perspectives to stand apart from spiritualized and psychologized stereotypes.

BU Anthropology PhD candidate Paula Pryce began working with Sinixt Interior Salish (Lakes) people in British Columbia and Washington State fifteen years ago. In 1999, the University of Toronto Press published her ethnography, Keeping the Lakes’ Way: Reburial and the Re-creation of a Moral World among an Invisible People. Paula has taught cultural anthropology at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver. She is currently shifting research directions towards the study of Christian ascetics.

A light lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Mark at 353-2195 or email him at palmerm@bu.edu, if you wish to attend.