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Anthropology in the Real World: Year VI

Ed Millar

Kiyomi Juillerat

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ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE REAL WORLD YEAR VI

A MULTI-YEAR PROJECT PRESENTING ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH AT SETON HALL

18 April 2012 AS 107 11:30 am-12:45 pm

CLASSICS IN AN MMORPG WORLD: EXPLORING COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Ed Millar conducts ethnography online

Abstract: The continuing development and expansion of the internet brings with it increasingly unique and diverse means through which its users share and interact with one another. One venue where this dynamic is especially focused, can be found in the Massively Multiplayer Online Role-playing Game (MMORPG) genre. In MMORPGs, players are frequently tasked with overcoming challenging encounters or utilizing the in-game market, in the pursuit of the strongest and most lucrative rewards. These two aspects of MMORPGs are only two of the many means through which players are encouraged to interact, cooperate, and organize themselves within the virtual world. This ethnography explores the cooperation and collaboration dynamic of MMORPGs through my experiences as a member of ‘The Guild’ on the Riddermark server in The Lord of the Rings Online, and their relation to the classic, early 20th century concept of reciprocity and solidarity found in Marcel Mauss’s The Gift, and Émile Durkheim’s The Division of Labor in Society.

OTHER BEINGS: RESEARCHING FILIPINO FOLKLORE & MYTHOLOGY

Kiyomi Juillerat explores family stories

Abstract: Growing up as a first generation Filipino in the United States has never deterred my parents and family from telling me of the “others” that occupy our world besides humans. Although our religion, like most of those from the Philippines is Catholicism and Christian, and despite much of the Philippines itself being very westernized, stories of Filipino folklore and mythology remain strong. The tales I was told as a child and are still heard today and are more than just scary stories told to children at night. There are sayings repeated by my mother and aunts to keep these creatures at bay, including instances in which my family, friends or neighbors have had to visit witch-doctors in the Philippines for consultation and to seek remedies from the effects of certain encounters with these spirits.

For my research project, I conducted extensive interviews with my family, here and in the Philippines to deepen my study of Philippine folklore and mythology. I also briefly delved into Filipino literature on the subject of these mythological creatures, and further analyzed the societal function of maintaining an oral tradition of the “engkanto”.

THE ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM WELCOMES YOU TO THIS YEAR’S STUDENT PRESENTATIONS FOR THE PETERSHEIM ACADEMIC EXPOSITION

Dr. Rhonda Quinn
Dr. Cherubim Quizon
Dr. Peter Savastano

This year’s host class is Dr Quizon’s ANTH 1202 Intro to Cultural Anthropology; this year’s faculty discussant is Dr. Savastano. All are welcome!

