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Résumé
Peter W. Van Arsdale

Specialties include human rights, cross-cultural analysis of mental health programs, community development (esp. involving water resources), program evaluation, and qualitative research methods. Refugees and immigrants have been primary “focus populations,” with humanitarianism a primary organizational thrust.

Innovations include co-development of the program in humanitarian assistance at the University of Denver’s Graduate School of International Studies, the refugee and immigrant program for the Colorado Division of Mental Health, the refugee mental health project for the Center for Cultural Dynamics, the WFMH national plan for collaborative refugee and immigrant resource centers, the NAPA/SfAA national training guidelines for applied anthropologists, the Axum (Ethiopia) - Denver (Colorado) Sister City Program, components of the human rights program at the University of Denver, HIV/AIDS guidelines for Colorado’s community mental health centers, and the interpreter/translator program at the Colorado Mental Health Institute - Ft. Logan. Emerging from the latter, co-developer of a metro Denver “interpreters bank.” Served as co-founder of Hospice of Metro Denver (now, The Denver Hospice, Colorado’s largest hospice organization) and the Rocky Mountain Survivors Center (the region’s largest provider of services to traumatized refugees). Served as founder/co-founder of eight other community organizations or boards in Colorado, and two nationally. Served as developer and supervisor of student internships for over 60 graduate students since 1985, including a number in Bosnia and Romania. Served as primary faculty advisor for the United States’ only regular internship/service learning program in Bosnia, as well as for the University of Denver’s Center On Rights Development (CORD). Served as advisor/consultant to four graduate students and state legislators who spearheaded passage of anti-FGM legislation in Colorado. Served as expert witness in Sudanese and Bosnian asylum cases. Co-discoverer of band of previously uncontacted indigenous people in Indonesian New Guinea (1974).

Fieldwork conducted in the United States, New Guinea/Papua, Indonesia, East Timor, Sudan, Ethiopia, Peru, Guyana, El Salvador, Bosnia, Romania, Israel, and Palestine on topics of refugee and immigrant acculturation, human rights development, mental health/health care delivery, water resource development, and community/institutional development. Utilized overseas fieldwork experience/information as expert witness in court testimonies. Foreign languages include Indonesian and Spanish.

Publications (a number of which are co-authored) include five books, four manuals/guides, and over 175 journal articles, book chapters, book reviews, video reviews, issue papers, and major technical reports. In addition, over 60 short research reports were produced for the Colorado Division of Mental Health and the Colorado Mental Health Institute - Ft. Logan. Consulting editor to the applied anthropology book series formerly produced by Lynne Rienner Publishers. Editorial board member for three peer-reviewed journals. Most recent textbook is Forced to Flee: Human Rights and Human Wrongs in Refugee Homelands (Rowman & Littlefield/Lexington).

University Degrees

Ph.D., cultural/applied anthropology, University of Colorado, 1975

M.A., general anthropology, University of Maryland, 1971

B.A., cum laude in psychology, University of Colorado, 1969

Professional Experience

Non-Academic Positions

- 1994 – 2003 Director of Program Evaluation, Colorado Mental Health Institute - Ft. Logan, Colorado
- 1986 – 1994 Program Specialist for Refugee, Immigrant, and American Indian Issues, Colorado Division of Mental Health
- 1985 – present Consultant (part-time) and Board Chair, Center for Cultural Dynamics, Inc., Denver, Colorado
- 1981 – 1985 Consultant (part-time), Applied Social Science and Health Consultants, Inc., Denver, Colorado
- 1979 – 1983 Consultant (part-time) and Head, Socio-Economic Department, Planning Research Corp./Engineering Consultants, Inc., Englewood, Colorado

Academic Positions

- 2004 – present Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of International Studies (and Director, Program in Humanitarian Assistance, 2007-present), University of Denver
- 2000 – 2004 Lecturer/Research Fellow, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver (part-time)
- 2000 – 2003 Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (unpaid advisory post)
- 2000 – 2003 Adjunct Professor, Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, Ohio (off-site)
- 1980 – 2000 Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver
- 1993 - 2000 Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado – Boulder (unpaid advisory post)
- 1975 - 1980 Assistant Professor and Acting Chair (1979-80), Department of Anthropology, University of Denver
- 1978 - 1987 Honorarium Faculties, University of Colorado – Denver and Antioch University – Denver

Honors and Awards

- “Voice for the Voiceless” Award, Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, 2008
Exemplary professional accomplishment, applied cultural anthropology, in celebration of 50th anniversary of University of Colorado Department of Anthropology, 2006

10th Division honorary patch, Romanian Land Forces Academy, for humanitarian training, 2004
Outstanding Faculty Award, Grad. School of Internat'l Studies, University of Denver, 2003
Omer C. Stewart Memorial Award for Achievements in Applied Anthropology, 2002
Outstanding Teaching Award, Grad. School of Internat'l Studies, University of Denver, 2001
"Who's Who in the 21st Century" and "21st Century Award for Achievement," International Biographical Centre, Cambridge
"Prophet of the 21st Century," one of seven named by The Denver Post, 2000
Performance Improvement/Program Evaluation Award, Colo. Mental Health Institute, 2000
Human Rights Award, United Nations Association of Colorado, 1999
Outstanding Faculty Service Award, Community Action Program (Project Bosnia), University of Denver, 1998
"Forever Faithful" Award, Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, 1998
Outstanding Faculty Award, Grad. School of Internat'l Studies, University of Denver, 1995
Honorary President, African Commission of Health and Human Rights Professionals (U.N. affiliate, the Congo), 1993-2000
Honorary Member, American Friends of Burma, 1988
Hospice of Metro Denver Founder's Award, 1986
J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Community Service, 1986
Margaret Mead Award for Applied Anthropology (finalist), 1985
Book of the Year Award (for The Biocultural Basis of Health), Amer. Journal of Nursing, 1981
Arvada West High School (Colorado) Hall of Fame, 1980

Writings have been selected for the following library collections:

The Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford
The University of Wyoming American Heritage Center
The University of North Carolina Population Center
The University of California, San Diego, Melanesian Archives

Leadership in Anthropology

Chair, Committee on Human Rights & Social Justice, Society for Applied Anthro., 2008-present

Member, Committee for Human Rights, Amer. Anthro. Assoc., 2006-present

Founding Member, Amer. Anthro. Assoc./Society for Applied Anthro. Joint Commission, 2001

Editorial Board, American Anthropologist, 2001-2006

Founding Member, Del Jones Memorial Award, Society for Applied Anthropology, 1999

Editorial Board, Directions in Applied Anthropology Series, Lynne Rienner Pub., 1997- 2003

President, National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA), 1998-2000

President, High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology, 1993-1995

Founding Editor, Bulletin of the High Plains Regional Section, Society for Applied Anthropology [now The Applied Anthropologist], 1981-1984

Acting Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver, 1979-1980

Recipient/co-recipient of 31 research grants and program development awards, the 10 most recent totaling \$525,552.