Cold War Anthropology

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Cold War Anthropology: The CIA, the Pentagon, and the Growth of Dual Use Anthropology.

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When I began publishing work on anthropologists and the Cold War and was not sure whether to do a single book spanning the materials covered in this volume, *Threatening Anthropology*, and *Anthropological Intelligence*, three wise women (Nina Glick-Schiller, Janice Harper, and Laura Nader) independently told me to break the stories up into separate volumes and to lead with the McCarthy story. Janice Harper explicitly told me that anthropologists love stories in which we are victims (McCarthyism) but won't like being shown as “collaborators.” I had no idea it would take me two decades of largely unfunded, but highly rewarding, research to document this story.

The influences for this project are broad, but the seeds for these volumes were planted three decades ago when I was an undergraduate reading the work of June Nash, Laura Nader, Delmos Jones, Joseph Jorgenson, Gerry Berreman, Eric Wolf, and others on how powerful forces and organizations like the CIA and the Pentagon have directed anthropological inquiries. My graduate work with Marvin Harris strengthened my writing and focused my attention on political-economic forces shaping the worlds in which anthropological knowledge was produced and consumed. My years as a pre-Internet human-Google working as Marvin’s research assistant in his largely abandoned campus office found me surrounded by his old 1960s and early 1970s issues of the *American Anthropological Association Fellows Newsletter*, reading accounts of some of the history recorded here. Though Marvin Harris and Marshall Sahlins famously clashed over significant epistemological differences, and even with my clear links to Harris, Sahlins has encouraged me and supported my efforts to document these past connections between anthropologists and military and intelligence agencies.

My friendship and work with Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair and writing for *CounterPunch* strengthened my writing voice, and helped me connect what are often misunderstood as separate academic and political worlds. Nina Glick-Schiller was the first editor to take my political historical work seriously enough to get me into print without dampening my critique; her encouragement and support helped me continue to work on a topic that most editors found intriguing but were hesitant to publish (see Price 1998). I am deeply grateful for the editorial guidance and friendship provided by Gustaaf Houtman, who
helped me publish post-9/11 critiques of militarized social science in the Royal Anthropological Institute’s *Anthropology Today* during a period when it was difficult to publish such work in the U.S. When I experienced difficulties publishing a report documenting the AAA’s 1951 covert relationship with the CIA described in chapter 3 in the *American Anthropologist* (after three split reviews questioning the wisdom of exploring such matters in public), AAA president Louise Lamphere convened a panel at the association’s 2000 business meeting (late in the evening, after the infamous Darkness in El Dorado public airing of grievances) to discuss these findings. Without Louise’s support and Laura Nader’s encouragement, I might have chosen to abandon a topic that was impossible to find research grants to sponsor, and nearly impossible to publish on when I started and returned to working in the Middle East. Roberto González’s detailed comments on the manuscript helped me better focus elements of my argument. Karen Jaskar’s librarian sensitivities wisely convinced me to not hyphenate “dual use” in the title, or elsewhere, to avert future searching and cataloging catastrophes. I am indebted to Jack Stauder for generously giving me a treasure trove of documents and artifacts from his years in the AAA’s Radical Caucus and Anthropologists for Radical Political Action.

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