



## **60-second interview: Marc Anderson**

Marc is a mature student who stumbled on to anthropology later on in his career. He is currently taking a distance learning course in anthropology through a university based in New Zealand.

### **How did you first find out about anthropology?**

During a conversation with a friend, we were chatting about some cultural differences between our upbringings and he mentioned this subject he had touched on in university.

### **Have you ever joined any anthropological groups or taken part in anthropological events and activities?**

I have never joined any anthropological groups. I have taken part in several anthropological events and find them mostly very engaging. Anthropological events I feel attract generally interested people who are willing and open to analyse their own perspectives while listening to informed information and material. However, from my own experience these events tend to draw a rather narrow mix of people, considering that anthropology is such a general, inclusive field that is relevant to everyone.

### **Do you find there are commonalities between people who are interested in the subject?**

Yes, I have noticed that most have travelled abroad, or wish to travel abroad with a desire to experience some life other than what they know. Students of anthropology who I have met tend to be excited to understand and learn more of the diversity of humankind.

**Are there any anthropologists whose work you particularly admire?**

Without meaning to neglect the founders of modern anthropology such as Bronislaw Malinowski and Franz Boas, I currently like Jeremy Narby's *'Intelligence in Nature'*.

**If you won a grant proposal to do some anthropological research, what are some topics or themes you would like to investigate?**

I am not sure how or by which method to research this...but I find the social and cultural 'general understanding of things and what to expect of situations' to interest me. Plus the divergence of a language based on classifying as well as personalising those classifications for different social groups.

**Do you have any tips, websites, or books you could recommend to people interested in learning more about anthropology?**

There is so much information online.. I tend to use the 'stumbleupon' widget to find new anthropology websites. As an introduction to cultural anthropology I would recommend *Small places, Large issues* by Thomas H. Eriksen. For biological anthropology I find Micheal A. Park's book *Biological Anthropology: an introductory reader* to be very accessible.