

# GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
11:30-12:50  
Cornett A129

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### *Three Decades with the Bariai: Reflecting on Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea*

Recently, I wrote a paper entitled “Gendered Experiences in the Field: Bariai, West New Britain, 1980-1985,” for inclusion in an edited collection of papers on First Fieldwork: Pacific Anthropology, 1960-1985. The title of my article takes in my first three field trips to Papua New Guinea (1980, 1982-83, 1985) but not my next three field trips in 2003, 2006 and 2009. Thinking back on my first and subsequent field trips to Bariai, I began to reflect on what



“multitemporal” ethnographic fieldwork means (see Howell and Talle 2011). Questions arose: What does gender have to do it? What does kinship have to do with it? Why do I continue to return? When did I “sign on” for the *longue durée*? Is so-called long term, extended, multitemporal fieldwork a positive or negative thing for the Bariai, for ethnography, for me? As I look forward to my next fieldwork trip in 2017, I look back through a gendered lens at over three decades of engagement with the Bariai, to share some thoughts and to engage with you on our central, even defining, method of ethnographic research, “doing fieldwork.”

**EVERYONE WELCOME.**