

## **CV - Dr. Knut M. Rio**

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Date of Birth: 10<sup>th</sup> February 1970

Married to Annelin Eriksen, three children.

Home address: Professor Dahls gt. 26, 5031 Bergen.

### **Research interests**

- Melanesian anthropology: social ontology: topics of gift, exchange, hierarchy and egalitarianism.
- The anthropology of objects: museum collections, the material and the social.
- The colonial history of the Pacific
- The anthropology of witchcraft/sorcery, divination and sacrifice
- Work, Gambling, the Urban

### **Present and former appointments:**

- Professor at the University of Bergen since September 2009.
- Associate Professor (1.amanuensis) at the University of Bergen since 2003.
- Associate Researcher (dr.gradsstipendiat) at Centre for Development Studies, University of Bergen, 1998-2002.

### **Administrative experience**

- Head of Department of the Cultural History Collections at the Bergen Museum, August 2005 until August 2007 and May 2013 until January 2015.
- Deputy Chair at the board for Bergen Museum, August 2005- August 2009.
- Chair of European Society for Oceanists, July 2010 – December 2012
- Board member of European Society for Oceanists, July 2005 – July 2010.

### **Editorial appointments**

- Co-editor of *Social Analysis* since 2010

- Editor of *Norwegian Anthropological Journal* (Norsk Antropologisk Tidsskrift), 2004 - 2008.

## **Teaching at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen**

- SANT 114 – The ethnography of Oceania, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009
- SANT 250 – Bachelor essay, 2007
- SANT 204 - Økonomisk liv i et globalt perspektiv: Symbolske og materielle aspekter ved produksjon, fordeling og konsum, 2008

## **Supervision of students**

- Co-Supervisor of Alice Servy's project "Youth and Public Health in Vanuatu" – from March 2011.
- Supervision of PhD-student Kristine Sunde Fauske's project "Land, Housing and Settlement in Vanuatu" – from March 2009.

## **Participation in research projects**

- "In the Wake of Colonialism. Norwegian Commercial Interests in Colonial Africa and Oceania", Unifob Global, University of Bergen. Project leaders Kirsten Alsaker Kjerland and Anne K. Bang. 2004-2009
- On Advisory Board of "Structure and History", funded by the Norwegian research council, 2008-2012. Project leader Håkon Glørstad, University of Oslo.
- "Pacific Alternatives: Cultural Heritage and Political Innovation in Oceania", Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen. Project leaders Edvard Hviding and Knut M. Rio. 2008 – 2012.
- On Advisory Board of "Gender and Pentecostal Christianity. An analysis of gender in Pentecostal Christianity with a comparative focus on Africa and Melanesia", funded by the Norwegian Research Council, 2012-2016. Project leader Annelin Eriksen, University of Bergen.
- Partner in ECOPAS project: European Consortium for Pacific Studies (<http://www.pacific-studies.eu/>), Co-ordinated by the Bergen Pacific Studies Group, project leader Edvard Hviding. Funding from EU 2013-2015.
- Partner in 'De-naturalizing difference: Challenging the production of global social inequality' at the dept of Social Anthropology, UiB. Project leader Edvard Hviding. Funding by Norwegian Research Council 2013-2015.
- Partner in 'Anthropos and the Material: Challenges to Anthropology' at the dept of social anthropology, UiO, project leader Ingjerd Hoem, Funding by Norwegian Research Council 2013 -2015.

## Fieldwork

I have conducted anthropological fieldwork in Vanuatu, on the island of Ambrym and in the capital of Port Vila for 9 months in 1995-1996, for six months in 1999 and again for six months in 2000. In 2006 I did two months of fieldwork in the capital of Port Vila in Vanuatu. I have also altogether done archive- studies at the University of Hawaii and one months of fieldwork in Kauai Island of Hawaii: first in October of 2006, then in January 2008 and March 2009. In 2010 I spent five months in Port Vila, collecting materials on developments in sorcery accusation and its state responses.

## Written work

### 1. Theses

Rio, Knut M. 2002. *The Third Man. Manifestations of Agency on Ambrym Island, Vanuatu*. Thesis submitted for the degree of dr. Polit. at the University of Bergen.

Rio, Knut M. 1997. *Standing Drums in Vanuatu. The Cultural Biography of a National Symbol*. Thesis submitted for the degree of Cand. Polit. at the University of Bergen.

### 2. Monographs

Rio, K. 2007. *The Power of Perspective: Social Ontology and Agency on Ambrym Island, Vanuatu*. Oxford: Berghahn Books. ISBN 978-1-84545-293-3

Rio, K. 1999. *Oceania Gjenoppdaget i Bergen. Reiser i Bergen Museums samlinger fra Stillehavet*. ('Oceania rediscovered in Bergen: Travelling through the Pacific Collections at the Bergen Museum') Bergen: Bergen Museums Skrifter, Kultur 3

### 3. Edited volumes

Hviding, Edvard and Knut M. Rio (eds.) 2011. *Made in Oceania: Social Movements, Cultural Heritage and the State in the Pacific*. Oxford: Sean Kingston Publishing.

Lattas, Andrew and Knut M. Rio (eds.) 2011. *The Arts of Government: Crime, Christianity and Policing in Melanesia*. Special issue of *Oceania*, vol. 81 (1).

Kjerland, Kirsten Alsaker og Knut M. Rio (eds.) 2009. *Kolonitid. Nordmenn på Eventyr og Big Business i Stillehavet og Afrika*. ('Colonialism: Norwegians in Adventures and Big Business in the Pacific and Africa') Bergen: Scandinavian Academic Press. ISBN 978-82-304-0049-4

Rio, Knut M. and Olaf H. Smedal (eds.) 2009. *Hierarchy. Persistence and transformation in social formations*. Oxford: Berghahn Books. ISBN 978-1-84545-493-7

#### 4. Articles in edited books

Rio, Knut and Annelin Eriksen 2014. 'A New Man: The Cosmological Horizons of Development, Curses and Personhood in Vanuatu', in A. Abramson and M. Holbraad *Framing Cosmologies: The Anthropology of Worlds*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Rio, Knut 2014. 'From adventure to industry and nation-making: The history of a Norwegian sugar plantation in Hawai'i', in B. Bertelsen and K. Kjerland *Navigating Colonial Orders: Norwegian Entrepreneurship in Africa and Oceania*. Oxford: Berghahn Books

Rio, Knut and Annelin Eriksen 2014. 'Rivers and the study of kinship in Ambrym, Vanuatu: Mother right and father right revisited', in E.Hviding and C.Berg (eds.) *The Ethnographic Experiment: A.M. Hocart and W.H.R. Rivers in Island Melanesia, 1908*. Oxford: Berghahn Books

Rio, Knut 2013. 'Death, witchcraft and the temporal aspects of divination', in R. Willerslev and D. Refslund (eds): *Taming Time, Timing Death: Social Technologies and Ritual*. First volume of book-series 'Studies in Death, Materiality and the Origin of Time'. London: Ashgate ISBN: 978-1-4094-5068-9

Rio, Knut M and Edvard Hviding 2011. 'Pacific made: Social movements between cultural heritage and the state', introduction to (eds.) Hviding, E. and K. M. Rio *Social Movements, Cultural Heritage and the State in Oceania*, pp. 1-31. Oxford: Sean Kinston Publishing.

Rio, Knut M. 2011. 'High chief, *waetman* and the codification of ritual objects in Vanuatu', in (eds.) Hviding, E. and K. M. Rio *Social Movements, Cultural Heritage and the State in Oceania*, pp. 223-253. Oxford: Sean Kinston Publishing.

Kjerland, Kirsten A. og Knut M. Rio 2009. "Introduksjon" til (eds.) Kjerland, K. A. og K. M. Rio *Kolonitid. Nordmenn på Eventyr og Big Business i Stillehavet og Afrika*, pp. 5- 11.

Rio, Knut M. 2009. "Fra eventyr til industri. Historien om de norske sukkerplantasjene på Hawaii", i (eds.) Kjerland, K. A. og K. M. Rio *Kolonitid. Nordmenn på Eventyr og Big Business i Stillehavet og Afrika*, pp. 187-221. Bergen: Scandinavian Academic Press / Spartacus Forlag.

Rio, Knut M and Olaf H. Smedal 2009. "Hierarchy and Its Alternatives: An Introduction to Movements of Totalization and Detotalization", in (eds.) Rio, K. M. and O. H. Smedal *Hierarchy. Persistence and transformation in social formations*, pp. 1- 65. Oxford: Berghahn Books.

Rio, Knut M. 2008 "The scale of materiality. Objects between the social and the material", in H. Glørstad and L. Hedeager (eds.) *Six Essays on the Materiality of Society and Culture*, pp. 155-173. Lindome: Bricoleur Press

Rio, Knut M. 2002. "The Sorcerer as an Absented Third Person: Formations of Fear and Anger in Vanuatu". In (ed.) Kapferer, B. *Beyond Rationalism. Rethinking Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery*, pp.129-154. Oxford: Berghahn Books.

Rio, Knut M. 2002. "Eksotiske gjenstander og deres museumshistorie", I (eds.) A. Johansen, K. Losnedahl, H. Ågotnes *Tingenes tale. Innspill til Museologi*, 56-73. Bergen: Bergen Museums skrifter nr.12.

## 5. Articles in refereed journals

Rio, Knut 2014. 'A shared intentional space of Witch-Hunt and Sacrifice', *Ethnos* 79(3): 320–341.

Rio, Knut 2014. 'Melanesian Egalitarianism: The containment of hierarchy', in special issue titled 'Dumont, Values, and Contemporary Cultural Change' (eds.) Joel Robbins and Jukka Siikala. *Anthropological Theory* 14(2):169-191.

Rio, Knut and Annelin Eriksen 2013. 'Missionaries, healing and sorcery in Melanesia: A Scottish evangelist in Ambrym Island, Vanuatu.' *History and Anthropology* 24(3): 398-418.

Lattas, Andrew and Knut Rio (eds.) 2011. Special issue of *Oceania*: 'The Arts of Government: Crime, Christianity and Policing in Melanesia'. *OCEANIA* vol 81, number 1.

Lattas, Andrew and Knut Rio 2011: 'Securing Modernity: Towards an Ethnography of Power in Contemporary Melanesia', *OCEANIA* vol 81(1): 1-22.

Rio, Knut 2011. 'Policing the Holy Nation: The State and Righteous Violence in Vanuatu', *OCEANIA* vol 81(1): 51-72.

Rio, Knut 2010. 'Handling sorcery in a state system of law: Magic, violence and kastom in Vanuatu', *Oceania* 80(2): 183-197.

Rio, K. 2009. "Subject and object in a Vanuatu social ontology. A local vision of dialectics". *Journal of Material Culture* 14(3): 283-308.

Rio, Knut M. and Olaf H. Smedal 2008. "Totalization and detotalization: Alternatives to hierarchy and individualism". *Anthropological Theory* 8(3): 233–254.

Rio, Knut M. 2007. "Exposer la vie après la mort: les effets sociaux des prestations mortuaires au Vanuatu". *Journal de la société des Océanistes* 123-124.

Rio, Knut M. 2007. "Denying the Gift: aspects of the gift and its counter-prestation in a Vanuatu society". *Anthropological Theory* 7 (4): 449-470.

Rio, Knut M. 2005. "Discussions around a sand-drawing: Creations of agency and society in Melanesia". *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (N.S), 11:401-423.

Rio, Knut M. 2002. "The sorcerer as an absented third person. Formations of fear and anger in Vanuatu". *Social Analysis*, 46:129-154.

Rio, Knut M. 2000. "Former for produksjon og betaling i Vanuatu: Gamle og nye perspektiver på resiprositet i Melanesia". *Norsk Antropologisk Tidsskrift* 11:197-211

Rio, Knut M. 1998. "Tingenes tilstand ved Bergen Museums etnografiske samlinger". *Norsk Antropologisk Tidsskrift*, 9 (2&3): 93-104

Rio, K. 1998. "Spiralen: Det materielle produksjonsapparat involvert i fremstillingen av menn og andre mannlige figurer i Vanuatu, Sentral-Melanesia", *Primitive Tider* 1: 33-45.

## Organization of conferences

- "THE ANTI-GIFT: Musings on Unrequited Reciprocity, Social Parasitism and Gratuity", Oberbozen, Italy, 2.-6. September 2014. Co-organized with Giovanni da Col. 14 participants.
- European Society for Oceanists, December 2012. 190 participants.
- "Witchcraft, magic and the phantasmagoric realities of modernity". Mini-conference at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen. Speakers: Peter Geschiere, Nils Bubandt, Andrew Lattas, Koen Stroeken and Knut Rio. May 2009
- "Cultural heritage and political innovation – relations of the state and alternative social movements in Oceania" Workshop co-chaired with Edvard Hviding at the European Society for Oceanists conference in Verona in July 2008.
- "Technology and its social forms". Mini-conference at the University of Bergen . Speakers: Kenneth Hugdahl, Tim Ingold, Pierre Lemonnier, Karen Sykes, Thorvald Sirnes. March 2006
- "Cultural Heritage and Political innovation" Symposium for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands research. Co-Organized with Edvard Hviding. Bergen, oktober 2006.
- "Antropologien og Staten". Annual meeting of the Norwegian Anthropology Association (NAF). 175 participants. Bergen, May 2005.

## Recent Invited International lectures

International conference for the Nordic Network of Philosophical Anthropology: "Questioning the Human being" August 25.-27. 2011, University of Aarhus. Paper with Annelin Eriksen, titled: "A New Human Being: Man in a pluralist cosmology".

International workshop: "Contemporary Cosmologies and the Cultural Imagination", May 11th- 12th 2011, Department of Anthropology, University College London. Paper with Annelin Eriksen, titled: 'A New Man: The Cosmological Horizons of Development, Curses and Sorcery in Vanuatu.'

International workshop: "The Other Side of Sacrifice: New anthropological perspectives", January 13.-14. 2011, Department of Anthropology, University of Edinburgh. Paper title: "A shared intentional space of Divination, Witch-Hunt and Sacrifice"

3rd Annual Research Workshop: "North Sea-South Seas" between the Centre for Pacific Studies, University of St Andrews & Bergen Pacific Studies Research Group, University of Bergen, University of St. Andrews, 23rd-25th March 2011. Paper with Annelin Eriksen, titled: "The world according to Jimmy"

"Port Vila: Squatter Settlements, the nation and memories of colonialism" - Foredrag på internasjonal workshop i Bergen, 23. August 2010.

"Squatter Settlements and the State in Port Vila, Vanuatu" - Foredrag ved konferanse i St. Andrews under konferansen til European Society for Oceanist, 5-8. Juli 2010.

"The Question of Non-Being as Fundamental to Divination, Witchcraft and Sacrifice" - Foredrag under workshop for Nordic Network for Philosophical Anthropology, Bergen 7. December 2010.

Invited paper at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, 24-27 March 2009, at the conference "PACIFIC ALTERNATIVES: Cultural Heritage and Political Innovation in Oceania", paper title: "Witchcraft, Media and State: New Phantasmagoric Spaces in Melanesia"

Invited paper at The University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 10.-12. November, 2008, "Containing hierarchy: Globalization and the market of traditional art in Vanuatu".

Invited paper at Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research, University of Helsinki, at the conference "Dumont and the global order", Helsinki, October 2008, "Containing hierarchy: The market of traditional art in Vanuatu".

Research seminar at the London School of Economics and Political Science, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2007: "Subject and object in a Vanuatu social ontology. A vision of pure materiality".

Invited paper at the British Museum, March 2007: "The Vanuatu sorcery scene in light of recent events"

Invited paper at the University of Manchester, December 2006: "The displacement of morality on the Vanuatu sorcery scene".

Invited plenary lecture at Academia Sinica, Taipei, December 2006: "Discontinuities in cultural encounters. Colonialism in a Vanuatu Island", at the conference "Imagined centres and diverse peripheries".