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## **New Guinea Micro-Evolution Project Papers**

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Languages:** English

**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego

9500 Gilman Drive

La Jolla 92093-0175

**Title:** New Guinea Micro-Evolution Project Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** MSS 0436

**Physical Description:** 0.25 Linear feet(1 archives box)

**Date (inclusive):** 1959-1994

**Abstract:** Papers related to the New Guinea Micro-Evolution Project, led by James B. Watson. Also included are papers written for an American Anthropological Association conference session looking back at the study and its impact on the discipline. Papers range in date from 1959-1994, and include reports, meeting minutes, working papers, and conference papers.

**Historical Background**

The Committee on New Guinea Studies (CONGS), formed in the United States in 1956, consisted of anthropologists from six Pacific Coast universities. Concerned with the rapid disappearance of native populations untouched by Western influence, the group planned a long term study of populations in interior New Guinea. Beginning in early 1959, a cooperative study began in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Led by James Watson and supported by the National Science Foundation, the project examined the languages, cultures, psychological traits, racial characteristics, and ecological adaptations of the native populations in Gadsup, Tairora, Auyana, and Awa. Along with Watson, researchers included Howard McKaughan, Brian du Toit, Madeleine Leininger, Robert Littlewood, K.J. Pataki, and Robert Welsch.

**Preferred Citation**

New Guinea Micro-Evolution Project Papers, MSS 436. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

**Publication Rights**

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

**Acquisition Information**

Acquired 2013.

**Scope and Contents of Collection**

Papers related to the Micro-Evolution Study in New Guinea, led by James B. Watson, as well as its impact on the discipline of anthropology. The collection has been arranged in two series: 1) PROJECT PAPERS and 2) CONFERENCE MATERIAL.

**SERIES 1: PROJECT PAPERS**

The series PROJECT PAPERS includes copies of documents related to the Micro-Evolution Study. These papers include meeting notes, a grant proposal to extend the study, memos documenting the project, and project reports written by James Watson.

**SERIES 2: CONFERENCE MATERIAL**

The second series, CONFERENCE MATERIAL, contains papers, notes, and planning documents for a session at the 1994 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. The session - Sartor Resartus: The New Guinea Micro-Evolution Project, 1959-1983 and After - examined the Micro-Evolution Project's impact on research methods, interests, and anthropology in general. Speakers included David Boyd, David Cole, Brian Du Toit, Paula Brown Glick, Terence Hays, Madeleine Leininger, Robert Littlewood, Howard McKaughan, Donald Tuzin, Robert Welsch, and George Westermark. Many of the presenters were participants in the project. The series contains planning documents and notes from the session, as well as many of the participant's papers - both early drafts and finished works.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Gadsup (Papua New Guinea people)

Eastern Highlands Province (Papua New Guinea)

Auyana (Papua New Guinea people)

Tairora (Papua New Guinea people)

Ethnology -- Papua New Guinea -- Eastern Highlands Province -- Archives

Awa (Papua New Guinea people)

New Guinea Micro-Evolution Project

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McKaughan, Howard, 1922-  
Du Toit, Brian M., 1935-  
Welsch, Robert Louis, 1950-  
Pataki-Schweizer, K. J.  
Littlewood, R. A. (Robert A.), 1930-  
Leininger, Madeleine M.  
Committee of New Guinea Studies

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**PROJECT PAPERS**

Box 1, Folder 1            **Committee on New Guinea Studies (CONGS) - Meeting notes August 28-29, 1959**  
Box 1, Folder 2            **New Guinea Micro-evolution Studies "Memorandum Series," #1-17 1961 - 1966**  
Box 1, Folder 3            **The Dynamics of Micro-evolution of a Human Community: An Interdisciplinary Study  
in Behavioral, Environmental, and Biological Variation - National Science Foundation  
grant proposal ca. 1963**  
                                 **Watson, James B**  
Box 1, Folder 4            **Micro-Evolution Studies (New Guinea Project) - Work papers 1962**  
Box 1, Folder 5            **Various reports & notes 1966, 1968**

**CONFERENCE MATERIALS**

Box 1, Folder 6            **Session proposal, schedule, planning materials, and meeting notes ca. 1994**  
                                 **Session papers**  
Box 1, Folder 7            **Boyd, David J. - The Irakia Awa: Historical Continuity, Change, and the "Jones  
Effect," 1964-1993 undated**  
Box 1, Folder 8            **Cole, David - Function and Development in the East New Guinea Highlands  
undated**  
Box 1, Folder 9            **Du Toit, Brian M. - A New Guinea Research Experience: Looking Back After Thirty  
Years ca. 1994**  
Box 1, Folder 10           **Hays, Terence E. - Micro-Evolution Project Bibliography undated**  
Box 1, Folder 11           **Littlewood, Robert - The Microevolution Project and a "Science" of Anthropology  
1994**  
Box 1, Folder 12           **McKaughan, Howard P. - An Overview from Linguistic Micro-Evolution Studies of  
the Eastern Family of the East New Guinea Highlands 1994**  
Box 1, Folder 13           **Welsch, Robert L. - Regional Research in Melanesia: From the New Guinea  
Micro-Evolution Project to the A.B. Lewis Project and Beyond 1994**  
Box 1, Folder 14           **Westermark, George - Colonial Ethnography: The Micro-Evolution of Kiap Cultural  
Analysis undated**