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Yamada, George

1980-1990

re: de Cristoforo affidavit

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Rikka ^a Semiannual Journal
RR1 Little Current, Ontario M5W 1P4 Canada

23 March 1980

Rosalie Hankey Wax
7106 Westmoreland Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Ms. Hankey Wax:

RIKKA, a semi-annual journal founded in 1972, has established its name in the cross cultural area of magazine journalism.

We would like to solicit your critical response to an affidavit titled "A Victim of the Japanese Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS)", submitted by Violet Yamane deCristoforo which will appear in a forthcoming issue of RIKKA.

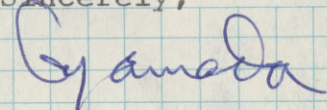
One of our Editors, Dr. Roland Kawano, esteems the notes of your work as an anthropologist in Tule Lake.

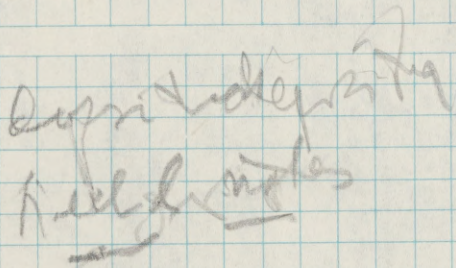
We strongly feel that both sides to a controversy deserve to be heard. Because we believe that either side should be willing to defend his/her position, we welcome your commentary to the Affidavit by Violet Yamane deCristoforo.

If you wish, we would be happy to send you a copy of the Affidavit and/or the concise 16-page summation of the Affidavit presented by the author to the Fifth National Conference of the Association for Asian American Studies convened at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington on March 24-27 of last year.

With much appreciation for your cooperation,

Sincerely,


George Yamada


Rosalie Hankey Wax



Department of Anthropology

April 3, 1989

Mr. George Yamada
Rikka
RRI Little Current, Ontario
M5W 1P4 Canada

Dear Mr. Yamada:

I thank you for your letter.

I should tell you first that I am now 77 years old and I no longer find writing easy. I should also tell you that I have recently deposited all of my field notes on my work at the Tule Lake Center in the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California.

If you wish to send me a copy of the 16 page summation of the Affidavit, I will read it and let you know if I am able to respond. By and large, people who wish to understand the quality of my work at Tule Lake should read my field notes or my well-received book, DOING FIELDWORK: WARNINGS AND ADVICE. They might also be interested in an article I published in 1953, "The Destruction of a Democratic Impulse," Human Organization, XII (1953) pp. 11-21.

I am enclosing a copy of a description of my work by William Foote Whyte, the noted sociologist and field worker.

Please give my thanks to Ronald Kawane.

Sincerely,

Rosalie H. Wax, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita

RHW:sc

Encl.

The
University
of Chicago
Press

5801
South Ellis
Avenue
Chicago
60637

Fieldwork: In Theory and Practice

DOING FIELDWORK

Warnings and Advice

by Rosalie H. Wax

ISBN: 0-226-86949-0

1971 x, 395 pages Cloth \$10.50 (£4.75)

"Probably the most important social-scientific point made in this book is that fieldwork is as much a social phenomenon (involving reciprocity, complex role playing, the invention and obeying of rules, mutual assistance, and play) as it is an individual phenomenon (involving observation, recording, testing, analyzing, defining, theorizing, and model building).... Good fieldwork is not something performed by an isolated intellectual or researcher but something created by all of the people in the social situation being studied."-- "Final Thoughts", chapter 31 of Doing Fieldwork

Rosalie H. Wax's DOING FIELDWORK is a serious anthropological study which, at the same time, tells a sensitive, warm, and clear-sighted story about the complicated human relationships developed by the author with the host, or native, peoples whom she was professionally studying.

Professor Wax analyzes, for the benefit of young anthropologists and sociologists, some of the problems they will face as they move into the field to conduct their research. She describes her own solutions to these problems, which she worked out while doing fieldwork in the west coast Japanese detention camps during World War II, in the Thrashing Buffalo Indian reservation during 1962-63, and among the non-reservation Gokachi Indians in the Southeast during 1966-67. Her adventures, as she penetrated the initial smokescreen of resistance and became an intimate observer of the host people's daily life, make fascinating and often humorous reading. "Out of this turmoil emerged one basic conclusion: that the most important things that happen in the field are unpredictable."

As a text for the study of participant observation and fieldwork, DOING FIELDWORK will offer practical and personal advice to participant researchers, to students, and to a substantial number of American sociologists. In this context, this book presents the most detailed and intimate account of field experience yet published; and the account is supplemented by historical and theoretical analyses.

Finally, for those readers who enjoy good dramatic stories, DOING FIELDWORK offers a full, uncensored, and chronological account of the exigencies and high points of a career and life spent in the field.

"If I had to recommend a single book to a prospective student field worker, I would choose this volume without any hesitation. Rosalie Wax has done an extraordinarily impressive job in presenting the problems and processes of field work in a way that should fascinate the novice and yet will stand up against any criticisms from fellow professionals. As a long-time field worker myself, I cannot find a single point in her 'warnings and advice' with which I would take exception.... The book links together the social process of field work with the intellectual process of defining and successfully redefining the problems under study. Doctor Wax does not limit herself to telling us how she went out and got the data. She also guides us through the intellectual processes that led her from general problem interests to successfully sharper formulations of the problems she was studying. She makes the reader feel the thrill she got at a critical point in field work when the observation of an event or the statement of an informant suddenly placed the whole social scene in a new light and led to a redirection both of theorizing and of field work.... Let me close by suggesting a simple test for the prospective field worker. Have him read this book. If he does not respond with enthusiasm, you are probably safe in assuming that, while he may perform well in other types of research, he is not cut out to be a good participant observer."-- William Foote Whyte, Social Forces

Together with DOING FIELDWORK, we would like you to consider several recently published studies, based on research in the field, that support Professor Wax's warnings and demonstrate her advice.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

A Cross-Cultural Study of Glossolalia

by Felicitas D. Goodman

ISBN: 0-226-30324-1

1972 xxii, 175 pages \$7.50 (£3.40)

"The beginning of January, I started going to church, and at the beginning of February I received the Holy Spirit. I had prayed for it, and then I felt the heat, the heat of the Lord, it reached up to my neck, and I saw the great light, it was like one of those very large lamps, and I began to weep. Then I began to speak in tongues, and I began to pray and pray. And this is how my conversion was."-- "Conversion Stories", chapter 2 of Speaking in Tongues

In SPEAKING IN TONGUES, anthropologist and linguist Felicitas D. Goodman investigates this enigmatic form of behavior which is practiced by many different religious groups around the world, and which has been dismissed by some observers as meaningless gibberish.

Dr. Goodman's cross-cultural fieldwork included living with Apostolic congregations in Mexico City, with Maya Indians in Yucatan, and with a congregation in Hammond, Indiana. The evidence contained in her remarkable collection of sound recordings and films demonstrates that persons speaking in tongues utter sounds with the same phonetic features, regardless of the linguistic structure of their native language. Dr. Goodman provides detailed phonological analyses of these sound patterns, some of which were uttered by speakers of a non-Indo-European language, and concludes that the remarkable cross-cultural similarity is a function of the glossolalist's altered mental

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9 May 1989

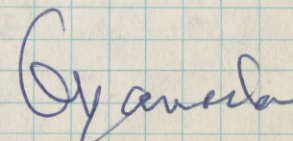
Dr. Rosalie Hankey Wax
7106 Westmoreland Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Dr. Wax:

Thank you for your letter of 3 April which arrived during a lengthy trip I took away from home. And thank you for your enclosure of the commentary by William Foote Whyte on your DOING FIELDWORK: WARNINGS AND ADVICE. I am also grateful for the reference to your article, "The Destruction of a Democratic Impulse," published in Human Organization, XII 1953. In fact, I am interested in reading all of your published material, particularly that of the postwar period. If your 1981-1982 life history interviews of resettled internees are available, would it be possible to have access to this material?

I enclose herewith a copy of the 16-page summation of the Affidavit titled "A Victim of the Japanese Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS)", to which we would appreciate your critical commentary.

Most gratefully yours,



George Yamada

May 18, 1989

Mr. George Yamada:

I have just received your letter and the manuscript you sent me.

A number of the people I interviewed in ~~XXXXXX~~ 1981-1982 have asked me not to let anyone have access to their ~~interviews~~ life histories.

I must, of course, respect their ~~wishes~~ wishes.

I will do my best to prepare a commentary on the Affidavit. If I find that I cannot manage the task, I will let you know. Writing is difficult for me now.

with thanks and best wishes,

Rosalie H. Wax

Mr. George Yamada
R.R.1. Little Current Ontario
POP 1KO Canada



Department of Anthropology

May 24, 1989

Mr. George Yamada
Rikka Semiannual Journal
Little Current
Ontario, POP 1K0 Canada

Dear Mr. Yamada:

Here is my comments on Mrs. de Christoforo's Affidavit. I could be much more critical (for, example, she does not mention that it was Mr. Robertson, an Assistant Project Director, who suggested that I might find it interesting to call on some members of the underground group like Mrs. Tsuchikawa. DOING FIELDWORK, p. 112. But the fact is, that in spite of her attacks on me I feel sorry for her.

I am also enclosing a copy of my last article which was published about two years ago in (I think) THE MONTANA HISTORICAL JOURNAL. I've given away all my printed copies. It is a short history of Tule Lake into which I tried to insert as many statements from my taped interviews as I could. Most of the material in my taped interviews cannot be understood unless one knows what was happening there. Some of the statements are truly heartbreaking.

Wish best wishes,

Rosalie H. Wax
Professor Emerita

RHW:sc

Encl.

May 24, 1989

COMMENTS ON "A VICTIM OF A TULE LAKE ANTHROPOLOGIST"

I am now 77 years old and retired. I do not have the strength for a point by point refutation. Even if I had the strength, a point-by-point refutation would not be necessary, since, as my last professional act, I deposited my fieldnotes concerning Tule Lake in the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. These notes will indicate how and from whom I obtained my data.

I am responsible only for the books and essays on which my name appears as author. THE SPOILAGE was written by Thomas and Nichimoto and they did not consult me about the text. I cannot assume responsibility for their statements. In many cases Mrs. De Cristoforo attributes to me statements made by other people or statements which Dr. Thomas obtained from other sources.

Finally, after the war, I neither testified nor gave evidence concerning the Nisei and Kibei who had renounced their citizenship and had been deported to Japan. My book, DOING FIELDWORK, was published in 1971, five years after the deported Nisei and Kibei were permitted to return to the United States. (See Michi Weglyn, YEARS OF INFAMY, p. 253-65.)

Rosalie H. Wax

May 24, 1989

Dr. Wax,

Your manuscript was mailed today to Mr. Yamada. You may pick up your original and 1 copy the next time you are on campus.

So nice to see you and this morning and visit with you.

Fondly,

Sue





Department of Anthropology

May 31, 1990

Mr. George Yamada
Rikka
RR1 Little Current, Ontario
M5W 1P4
Canada

Dear Mr. Yamada:

Unfortunately, I have no photos taken of me during my undergraduate period. All I can send you is a photo taken about 15 years ago at a faculty meeting at Washington University. I am also enclosing a copy of your last letter.

Sincerely,

Rosalie H. Wax
Emerita

RHW:sc

Enclosures