

"On Surviving against the Odds: Teaching and Editing S. Ann Dunham"

Alice Dewey

Thursday, February 4 • 12 noon – 1:15 p.m.

Center for Biographical Research • 1800 East West Road, Henke Hall 325

Stanley Ann Dunham earned a BA in anthropology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and soon after moved with her husband, Lolo Soetoro, and her six-year old son, Barack Obama, from Honolulu to Soetoro's home in Jakarta, Indonesia, where her daughter, Maya Soetoro, was born. From the 1970s through the 1980s, Ann Dunham conducted field research in the Yogyakarta area of Central Java, centering on a village known as Kajar. Her focus was on the nonagricultural enterprises of rural Indonesia, and particularly blacksmithing and other small metalworking industries. This research became the basis for her thousand-plus page PhD dissertation at the University of Hawai'i, written under the supervision of anthropologist Alice Dewey.

Dunham had begun the process of revising her work for publication when she passed away in November 1995. Several years later, at the request of Maya Soetoro, Alice Dewey took on the task of preparing Dunham's dissertation for publication, enlisting another former student and now colleague, Nancy I. Cooper, as coeditor. Edited and published in what is probably a record time for a book of its length and character, *Surviving against the Odds: Village Industry in Indonesia* was published in December by Duke University Press.

Alice Dewey, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is an economic anthropologist with a focus on peasant societies and social structures and change. Her work has centered on Java since her participation with Clifford and Hildred Geertz and other Harvard-based anthropologists in the early postwar "Modjokuto" project, which created the basis for economic anthropology in Indonesia. In 1989 and 1990, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa anthropologist and coeditor of *Surviving against the Odds* Nancy I. Cooper was a UH graduate student based in a neighboring Yogyakarta village, where she was conducting research on women singers and gender relations.

For more information, contact the Center for Biographical Research at 956-3774 or [biograph@hawaii.edu](mailto:biograph@hawaii.edu).