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UNH Anthropologist Lands Max-Planck Fellowship to Research 'Global Warring'

By Tracy Manforte
UNH News Bureau

September 20, 2000

DURHAM, N.H. -- University of New Hampshire anthropologist Stephen Reyna has been awarded a fellowship at the prestigious Max-Planck Institute for Social Anthropology.

Reyna, UNH professor of anthropology, leaves campus Oct. 1 to spend the next 18 months in Halle, Germany, conducting research on "Global Warring." The result will be a better understanding of the making of the modern world.

"The goal is to provide a theoretical understanding of force and power, with particular emphasis on the connections between military force and economic growth," he explains. "I am arguing that there was an interplay between the growth of militaries and the growth of capitalist economies."

Reyna, who spent seven years in Africa teaching and conducting research, has written or edited a number of books on warfare, including his most recent co-edited with Richard Downes, "Deadly Developments: Capitalism, State and War" (March 1999). His 1990 book, "Wars Without End," examines the political economy of a pre-colonial African state.

Reyna will be among a select group of fellows at Max-Planck, as the institute for social anthropology enters only its second year. The work of the institute, which opened in May 1999 south of Berlin, is grounded in field research, complemented by historical analysis and social science methods.

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