

Explorations in Fieldwork Experiences and Reflections

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KEYWORDS Tanna. Vanuatu. Fieldwork. Reflections

ABSTRACT People in the “underdeveloped”, “undeveloped”, or “third” world have rich ways of life that are often ignored or denigrated by those in the so-called first world, even by visitors and travelers. The actual experience of anthropological fieldwork may initially repulse, but through interaction and building of relationships, outsiders can and do learn to appreciate alternative ways of life. A case in point concerns the experiences enjoyed by the author during fieldwork in Tanna, Vanuatu. Reflections decades later reveal that alternative ways to “see” remain as a valuable outcome.