

**Informants and Researchers: Cooperation,
Self-interest and Reciprocity
(An Examination of Changing Social Relationships)**

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ABSTRACT The dependency of the researcher as short-term linguistic and social outsiders on informants for intellectual and material assistance is rarely acknowledged in personal terms. Objectives of researchers are short-term while those of informants relate to their own long-term social roles. The relationships are governed by self-interests and reciprocities in which there are role conflicts and misunderstandings. Anthropologists depend principally on informants without whom they would be almost socially and professionally blind but whose individual contributions are usually acknowledged in ways that do not often point to their crucial role. This study examines the data disclosed in a range of prefaces and the interrelationships of informants and researchers.