

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Peter M. Weil**

**Address:** Department of Anthropology  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716

**E-MAIL:** [pmweil@udel.edu](mailto:pmweil@udel.edu)

**Telephones:** (Office) 302-831-1858  
(Home ) 302-737-8694  
(FAX) 302-831-4002

**Date and Place of Birth:** July 30, 1940; St. Louis, Mo.

**Education:** Ph.D. 1968 Anthropology, U. of Oregon  
M.A. 1965 Anthropology, U. of Oregon  
B.A. 1962 Anthropology and International Relations,  
U. of Texas, Austin

### **Positions:**

Associate Professor, University of Delaware, 1972-present

Director, African Studies Program, University of Delaware, 2003-present

Member, Research Education Review Committee, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), 1979-1981

Staff Anthropologist, Development Studies Program, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 1977-1978

Assistant Professor, University of Delaware, 1968-1972

Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University, summer 1970

Instructor, University of Oregon, summer, 1968

### **Research Interests:**

Public art forms and political processes in complex societies; political and economic anthropology; processes of the intensification of agricultural production and their social systemic effects; processes of social stratification; Mande societies of West Africa; Africa.

## **Anthropological Field Research:**

### **Fall, 1999 Mandinka and Wolof of Urban Gambia**

Research in Banjul, Serrekunda, Bakau, and Fajara, The Gambia, West Africa. Research focused on the culture and history of urban masks and masquerades, their organizational and ritual contexts, and the artists who make and perform them. Related issues included the role of the art objects in globalization.

### **March, 1993 The Mandinka of eastern Gambia**

Follow-up research on sociocultural change, masks, and ritual associations.

### **February, 1983 The Mandinka of eastern Gambia**

Follow-up research on masks, ritual associations, and their ethnographic contexts

### **1983 Gambia River Basin Research Project: Center for Research in Economic Development, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor (for USAID and Gambia River Basin Commission).**

In Gambia, assisted CRED (Center for Research in Economic Development) Socioeconomic Research Team in determining criteria for the selection of six sample villages as subjects for the Intensive Village Study of their project. Helped to select villages through rapid reconnaissance and to pretest questionnaires and develop response codes. Resulting data to be used in evaluation of cultural, social, and economic affects of the Balengho dam and its related irrigation works.

### **1982 Lower Casamance Master Planning Project: Harza Engineering Co., Chicago (for USAID and Government of Senegal).**

In Senegal, assisted in design of farming systems field research component, questionnaires, appropriate response codes, and the aggregation of data for the Phase II interim report.

### **1981 Lower Casamance Master Planning Project: Harza Engineering Co., Chicago (for USAID and Government of Senegal).**

In Senegal, member, interdisciplinary team to design a series of alternative irrigation development options for the Lower Casamance. The goal was to facilitate the integration of local populations into development planning and implementation. Prepared preliminary report of cultural and socioeconomic patterns in the planning area.

**1980 Gambia River Basin Development Project: Office of International Cooperation and Development, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. (for USAID and Gambia River Basin Commission).**

In Senegal and The Gambia, member, interdisciplinary team to research and write project paper for four-year AID research program, providing data base for the evaluation of the socioeconomic and ecological impacts of development strategies for the Gambia River Basin (Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea).

**1975-76 The Mandinka of eastern Gambia and Senegal**

Research on public art forms and political communication. Initial stages of research focused on the social, political, and economic history of the non-industrial state since 1800 to create a dynamic context within which to interpret data on public art forms. Ten women's masks and sixteen men's masks were selected as public art forms for intensive study. The intensive stage included oral history, construction materials, specific contexts of use, symbolism, and the perception of them by both judgment and stratified samples of adults.

**1972 The Gambia, all districts**

General survey of research needs and priorities in social and cultural anthropology, economic change and archaeology.

**1966-67 The Mandinka of central Gambia and north-central Camamance of Senegal**

Research on pre-colonial and colonial regional and local political organizations and their roles in economic change and the creation of a one-party state.

**Summer, 1963 Nez Perce Indian Reservation, Lapawai, Idaho, U.S.A.**

Research on the politics of economic change on the reservation, 1940-1963.

**Summers, 1961 and 1962 River Basin Project, Smithsonian Institution, Lincoln Nebraska.**

Archeological field crew member, Mobridge, South Dakota and Big Horn River, Montana.

## **Publications:**

### **Weil, Peter M. and Bala Saho**

- 2005 Masking for Money: The Commodification of Kankurang and Simba Mask Performances in Urban Gambia. *Wari Matters: Ethnographic Explorations of Money in the Mande World*. Stephen Wooten, ed. Munster (Germany): Verlag Lit., 162-177.

### **Weil, Peter M.**

- 1998 "Women's Masks and the Power of Gender in Mande History," *African Arts*, 31 2 (spring): 28-37, 88-91, 95-96.
- 1988 "Fighting Fire with Fire: The Mandinka Sengko Mask," in *West African Masks and Cultural Systems*, Sydney L. Kasfir, ed. Tervuren (Belgium): Musee Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, 151-196 + 4 figs. + map.
- 1986 "Agricultural Intensification and Fertility in the Gambia (West Africa)," in *Culture and Reproduction: Toward A Unified Theory of Human Reproductive Behavior*, W.P. Handwerker, ed. Denver: Westview Press, 294-320.
- 1985 Verification Commentary: "Senegambia: Beacon of Democracy" (report prepared at the request of J.E. Peters, Research Staff, National Geographic Magazine). Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 50 pp.
- 1984 "Socioeconomic Studies, Appendix C (Sections 3 and 4)," Phase II Final Report, Lower Casamance Master Plan Project Chicago: Harza Engineering Co., 350 pp.
- 1984 "Slavery, Groundnuts, and European Capitalism in the Senegambia Kingdom of Wuli, 1820-1930," *Research in Economic Anthropology*, 6: 77-119.
- 1983 (Edited with J. Elterich) *Proceedings of the Title XII Conference on Technological Change and Rural Development held at the University of Delaware, May 3-4, 1982, Newark, Del.: Title XII Program Publication, 360 pp.*
- 1983 "Economic Aspirations and Means Among the Mandinka," *Contemporary Cultural Anthropology*, M.C. Howard and P.C. McKim, eds. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 153-155.

- 1983 (et al.) The CRED Gambia River Basin Project Socioeconomic Study Workplan. Ann Arbor: Center for Research in Economic Development, University of Michigan, 42 pp.
- 1982 "Agrarian Production Intensification and Underdevelopment: Mandinka Women in Time Perspective," Proceedings of a Conference on Women in Development, Newark, Del., May 7, 1981. University of Delaware Title XII Program, 37-77.
- 1982 "Human Resources," Final Report, Phase I, Lower Casamance Master Plan Project. Chicago, Harza Engineering Co., 61 pp.
- 1982 Socioeconomic and Political Trends in the Gambia: A Basic Report. Warwick: Foster Parents Plan International, 78 pp.
- 1981 Human Resources and Socioeconomic Constraints: The Lower Casamance Master Plan Project. Chicago: Harza Engineering Co., 88 pp.
- 1980 "Mandinka Adaptation to Colonial Rule in the Gambia," Cultures et Developpement, XII, 2, 295-318.
- 1980 (et al.) The Gambia River Basin Development Project. Washington, D.C.: AFR/AID, 360 pp.
- 1978 Social Analysis of Alternative Development Strategies for the Gambia River Basin: 1976-2000. Washington, D.C.: Robert R. Nathan, Associates. 104 pp.
- 1977 Social Conditions in the Basin in Relation to Report on a Development Program for the Gambia River Basis: United Nations Multi-Donor Mission 1977. Washington, D.C.: AFR/AID, 28 pp.
- 1976 "The Staff of Life: Food and Female Fertility in a West African Society," Africa, 46, 2, 182-195.
- 1973 "Women, Wet Rice, and Adaptation in the Gambia," Rural Africana, winter, 21-29.
- 1971 "Tradition and Opposition in Area Council Elections in the Gambia," J. Asian and African Studies, 6, 2, 108-117.
- 1971 "The Masked Figure and Social Control: The Mandinka Case," Africa, 41, 4, 279-293.

- 1971 "Political Structure and Process Among the Gambia Mandinka: The Village Parapolitical System," in Papers on the Manding, C.T. Hodge, ed. Bloomington: University of Indiana, 249-272.
- 1970 "Introduction of the Ox plow in Central Gambia," in African Food Production Systems: Cases and Theory, P.F.M. McLoughlin, ed. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 231-263.
- 1969 "Recent Agricultural Research in the Gambia," Rural Africana 8: 37-46.
- 1968 "Language Distribution in the Gambia," African Language Review, 7, 37-46, map.

### **Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:**

- 2002 with Bala Saho "Kankurang and Simba: Commodification of Masks and Ritual Performance in Urban Gambia." Fifth International Conference on Mande Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands, June.
- 1995 "The Kankurang Mask Category: A Problem of Mande Culture History," Third International Conference on Mande Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands, March.
- 1993 "Masks of Mande Musulu: The Creation and Performance of Masks by Women in Wuli Kingdom, Senegambia," Association des Etudes Mande International Conference on Mande Studies, Bamako, Mali, March.
- 1988 "Modeling Form in Mande Masking," African Studies Association Meetings, Chicago, Ill., October.
- 1988 "Participant Observation: An Alternative Training Methodology in Clinical Law Programs," Association of American Law Schools Meeting, Bloomington, Ind., May.
- 1987 "Taking the Mask by the Horns: Sociocultural and Historical Processes in the Creation of Mande Regional Form and Style Analogs," African Studies Association Meetings, Denver, Colo., November.
- 1986 "Men's Masking and Ritual in 19th and 20th Century Adaptive Processes of the Mandinka of Senegambia: Art History as Culture History," African Studies Association Meetings, Madison, Wisc., November.
- 1986 "Innovation and Stratification in Consumption Behavior: Plow and Draft Animal Consumption in Eastern Gambia," Society for Economic Anthropology Meetings, Champagne-Urbana, IL., April.

- 1984 "Masks and the Social Control of Women: The Mandinka Sengko Mask," Northeast Anthropological Association Meetings, Hartford, Conn. March.
- 1981 "Agricultural Intensification and Human Fertility in The Gambia," Conference on Culture and Reproduction: Reconstructing the Demographic Paradigm, UCLA Faculty Center, Los Angeles, Calif., December 2.
- 1981 "Agrarian Production Intensification and Under-development: Mandinka Women of the Gambia in Time Perspective," University of Delaware Title XII Conference on Women in Development, Newark, Del., May 7.
- 1980 "Land Use, Labor, and Intensification Among the Mandinka of Eastern Gambia," African Studies Association, Philadelphia, Pa., October.
- 1980 "Defining 'Development From Below' for the Gambia River Basin," Society for Applied Anthropology, Denver, Colo., March.
- 1976 "Agrarian Slavery to Capital Farming in a West African Society," American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November.
- 1973 "The Chono: Symbol of Process in the Distribution of Authority in Mandinka Political Entities of Senegambia," Southwestern Anthropological Association, San Francisco, Calif., spring.
- 1972 "The Mandinka Age Grade: Structural Persistence and Cultural Flexibility in History," Conference on the Manding, London, U.K. June.
- 1972 "Women, Wet Rice, and Adaptation in the Gambia," Conference on Local Initiatives and Political Support in African Development, Philadelphia, Pa., April.
- 1971 "The Mansa Kompino: Political Socialization and Adaptation to Colonial Rule," Conference on the Political Implications of Local Change in Africa, Toronto, Canada, February.
- 1970 "Mandinka Fertility, Islam, and Integration in a Plural Society," American Anthropological Association, San Diego, Calif., November.
- 1970 "The Mask as an Agent of Social Control Among the Mandinka of The Gambia," Northeastern Anthropological Association, Ottawa, Canada, March.

**Invited Presentations:**

- 1994-95 "Social Organization in Africa," Foreign Service Institute, United States Department of State, Washington, D.C., July, October, March, May, July.
- 1988 "Masking as Political Process," Africanists Faculty Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., April.
- 1983 "The Impact of Agricultural Intensification on Human Fertility in Senegambia," African Studies Program Seminar, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., April.
- 1981 "Culture and Economic Development in Africa," Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., January.
- 1979 "Public Art Forms and Social Stratification: The Role of Art in the Communication Process Among the Mandinka of the Gambia," Smithsonian Institute Museum of African Art, African Art Symposium, Washington, D.C., July.
- 1970 "Political Structure and Process Among the Mandinka of The Gambia: The Village-Level Parapolitical System," African Studies Program Seminar, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., February.

**Research Awards:**

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| 1975-1976    | University of Delaware Research Foundation             |
| Summer, 1969 | University of Delaware Faculty Research Grant          |
| 1966-1967    | National Science Foundation Predoctoral Research Grant |
| 1963-1966    | National Defense Education Act Fellow                  |