

Hanna-Mary Cook

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

28 November 2018

Assessment 4

Name of Professional: Dr. Ann Jordan

Profession/Title: Organizational/Business Anthropologist (retired)

Business/Company name: University of North Texas (pre-retirement)

Date of Interview: November 20th, 2018

Assessment:

The interview with Dr. Ann Jordan was my first interview in the field of anthropology. Although her specialties, organizational and business anthropology, are not subfields that I am particularly interested in practicing in the future, the interview with Dr. Jordan provided ideas of ways that anthropology can be applied to different career fields and more background knowledge about anthropology in general.

We began by discussing Dr. Jordan's experience in organizational/business anthropology. She explained that organizational anthropology entails the use of anthropological theories and methods to study modern day businesses and organizations and to solve problems in each. Her experience in this field includes helping to combine two distinct company cultures during a merger, and interviewing employees to define and putting in place guidelines regulate corporate cultures. Additionally, she completed

research in Saudi Arabia about hospital employees from different nations and how they functioned together as a unit. I was surprised at my level of interest in this subfield since I have no desire to work in business or similar fields. When reviewing my notes after the interview, I came up with the question of how much background in business is necessary for success in organizational anthropology. If organizational anthropologists are invited to provide advice and assistance to businesspeople in handling their day to day affairs, then they must have a decent amount of knowledge in business and how corporations are run. Dr. Jordan did not talk about any previous experience that she had in business, but I am assuming she had to gather business knowledge before guiding organizations in her field work.

In the early days of Dr. Jordan's career, she spent most of her time studying Native Americans and doing research in the Texas and Oklahoma region. Her favorite research experience was interviewing a medicine man in Oklahoma and writing a book with another anthropologist about folk medicine and its history among Native Americans in the area. This project sounds very interesting to me as it seems more hands-on and exciting than organizational anthropology work. Something that I wish I would have asked during the interview is why Dr. Jordan shifted her career focus from Native American history to organizational anthropology. It would have been interesting to get her perspective on each field and why she chose to switch from one to the other.

We ended the interview by discussing the skills and personality traits that are important to being a successful anthropologist.

The interview with Dr. Jordan was helpful in revealing to me different ways that anthropologists function in the real world and how various subfields and branches of

anthropology can be combined in one study. Dr. Jordan completed research, has published multiple books and papers, was a professor, and worked in a business setting. Dr. Jordan's study in Saudi Arabia could be considered sociocultural, medical, organizational, applied, and national anthropology. Her medicine man work in Oklahoma was sociocultural, applied, and medical anthropology. The example of a business merger includes organizational, applied, and sociocultural anthropology. Overall, the interview provided a look into the many different things that an anthropology degree can be used for and the plentiful real world applications.