

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Conrad P. Kottak, Ph.D.**, Julian H. Steward Collegiate Professor of Anthropology and professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2010.


Professor Kottak received his A.B. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in 1963 and 1966, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1968, and was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor in 1976.

Professor Kottak's research focuses on social and cultural transformations in the context of ecology, political economy, technological change, and processes of globalization. His original field research was done in Arembepe, Brazil. Subsequently, he worked in Madagascar and in a variety of settings in the United States. The Arembepe work has continued throughout his lengthy career at the University of Michigan and resulted in numerous publications devoted to race and ethnicity, the impact of tourism on local communities, and the interactions between new forms of media and family life. His work in Madagascar explored the relationships between environment, local political formations, and sociocultural systems, while research in the United States focused on topics ranging from media and family relationships to ethnicity to the gender-work-family relationship in suburban contexts. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 2008.

Professor Kottak served as chair of the Department of Anthropology from 1996-2006. He was noted for his commitment to undergraduate and graduate education and to the continuing robustness of all four of the discipline's sub-disciplines, and for his exemplary mentorship of junior faculty. He taught numerous undergraduate anthropology courses, most notably the large introductory lecture courses, and is the author of one of the most widely used introductory textbooks in the field.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Conrad P. Kottak professor emeritus of anthropology**.

**Requested by:**

  
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Sally J. Churchill, J.D.  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2010