

Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Institute of Cultural Anthropology and
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Mr. Secretary General
Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry
Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy

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<i>Number</i>	<i>Date</i>	April 9, 2010
<i>Your</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	
<i>Subject</i>	<i>“Fields of Science and Technology”</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	<i>(FOS) classification: Anthropology</i>	

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

As President of the International Union on Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), I would like to bring to your attention the misclassification of Anthropology in the “Revised classification of Fields of Science and Technology”.

Conducted under auspices of the OECD by the Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology (see the revised version of the Frascati Manual, 2006: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/36/44/38235147.pdf>), this classification wrongly categorises Anthropology (and Ethnology) as a sub-field of Sociology (see point 5.4).

It is an inaccurate definition of this field of knowledge, which misrepresents both the history and the current standing of Anthropology as a Social Science in itself. Such a status has long had worldwide institutional expression in university departments and research centres throughout the world. Anthropology is the study of humankind (the human species) in its cultural, social and biological/physical aspects. Therefore, it deserves a separate category with the attendant major sub-divisions (e.g., social, cultural, biological).

I would like to express my concern over the possible negative implications of such a mis-categorisation for the measurement and organization of Research and Development activities of this social science, both at the national and international level.

Since the revised classification document itself states that “the current FOS classification is not necessarily a final one but will need to be revised regularly”, I therefore would ask that its update take into account the proper correction and thus classifies “**Anthropology, ethnology**” as a separate social science.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Dr. Peter J.M. Nas
President IUAES

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