

## **Gilbert Herdt, PhD 2010**

Dr. Gilbert Herdt is a cultural anthropologist, Professor and Founder of the Department of Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State University, also Director of the National Sexuality Resource Center (NSRC), created with major support from the Ford Foundation in 2002. Previously he has taught at Stanford University (1979-1985) and the University of Chicago (1985-1998), where he was Professor and Chair of the Committee on Human Development. He founded the Center on Culture and Mental Health at the University of Chicago and received major NIMH funding to train two cohorts of pre and postdoctoral students, including many who were LGBT scholars. Gil has conducted major fieldwork in Papua New Guinea (1974-1993), Chicago (1986-1989), and the Bay Area of California (2000-01) on issues of sexual orientation development and policy change. Herdt's work on the Sambia of Papua New Guinea was among the first major foundational works on sexual identity in the field of anthropology. He has published 33 books and edited scientific anthologies, monographs, and some 100 scientific peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, encyclopedia articles, and scholarly reports.

Dr. Herdt has been a pre-doctoral Fulbright scholar to Australia (1974-77), Individual Postdoc NIMH Fellow (1977-1980), and Guggenheim Fellow (1997-8), and has served in many organizational and founding national and international roles at research centers, on committees, and in government agencies. He was the founder and first president of the *International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Society, and Culture* (an organization dedicated to the scholarly and historic study of sexuality), organizer of 7 international conferences brought together on topics such as AIDS and Anthropology and Sexual Theory and Culture. Dr. Herdt is also the founder and director of Summer Institutes at the University of Amsterdam, and the Summer Institute on Sexuality, Society and Culture at SFSU. He has received grants from the NIH, NEH, Spencer Foundation, Wenner-Gren Foundation, Ford Foundation, Haas Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. Herdt founded the NSRC for the US in 2003 and has directed it with Ford Foundation support that totals 8 million dollars.

Dr. Herdt is an international expert on sexuality and gender, sexual identity development, sexual orientation, masculinity, sexual literacy, and the emergence of sexual rights in the context of the modern period. Herdt's fieldwork on the Sambia of Papua New Guinea over a period of 19 years and 13 field trips culminated in several books and papers, notably, *Guardians of the Flutes* (1981), *Intimate Communications* (1991), *Third Sex, Third Gender* (1994), and *The Sambia* (2006) and a BBC film. In the US, he is best known for his path-breaking community based study in Chicago of self-identified gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents and their families, published as *Children of Horizons*, 1993, and *Something to Tell You*, 2000. Herdt was the founder at the University of Chicago of the Center on Culture and Mental Health, and with colleagues Andrew Boxer and Bert Cohler a co-founder of the *Evelyn Hooker Center for Gay and Lesbian Mental Health*. Dr. Herdt is the founding editor of *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* (the journal of the NSRC), and is the general editor of a series of books at the University of Chicago Press. His latest book is *Sex Panic/Moral Panics*, NYU Press, 2009.

Dr Herdt returned to Papua New Guinea to conduct field work on the changing conditions of sexuality, gender, HIV, and modernity among the Sambia people in 2010 and is at work on his new book, *The Singers Are Gone*, which reports on how the culture changed over 35 years.