

BOSTON UNIVERSITY ANTHROPOLOGY

LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Mary Steedly

Department of Anthropology, Harvard University



Eating an Elephant, Imagining a Community: Culinary Nationalism and the Memory of the Senses

Wednesday, February 5 4 PM

Anthropology Seminar Room (232 Bay State Rd #102)

This talk is about revolutionary youth in the Karo highlands of (Sumatra) Indonesia and the role they played in the Independence struggle. Based on interviews and conversations conducted in North Sumatra between 1993 and 1995 with former veterans of the struggle, this talk approaches Karo engagements with nationalism and independence via a peculiar subset of narratives that demonstrate an intriguing “culinary nationalism;” that is, stories that use food as an idiom to communicate, display, disturb or limit the extent of national belonging or communal imagining.

Mary Steedly is a Professor of Social Anthropology at Harvard University. Her research is focused on topics of narrative and history, cultural theory, the politics of religion, comparative colonial studies, Christian missions, and nationalism and violence in Indonesia and in the southern U.S.

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Refreshments will be served. RSVP to palmerm@bu.edu