

Obituary for Peter Loizos to *Anthropology News*

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Peter Loizos, 74 (born 1937) Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics, was a social anthropologist and documentary film-maker whose work focused on the long-term effects of conflict and displacement in Cyprus. Before turning to anthropology, he had studied English at Cambridge and Communications at Pennsylvania, and had worked as a film-maker for the BBC. His anthropological studies focused on Greek Cypriots from Argaki village, making his corpus one of remarkable long-term commitment lasting almost 50 years. During this time, he documented the disruptions of modernity, forced displacement and finally illness and ageing. His first book, *The Greek Gift: Politics in a Cypriot Village* (1975) documented the ambiguous benefits of the village's incorporation within a new state and the political shifts entailed. His second book, *The Heart Grown Bitter: A Chronicle of Cypriot War Refugees* (1981) documented the plight of the Greek Cypriot inhabitants of Argaki in 1974 when the village was bombed during a Turkish military offensive. In the resulting ethnography, Loizos gave precedence to the refugees' experiences by placing the theoretical and academic discussion in an appendix, wishing to respect the refugees' painful narratives and to allow the refugee voices to be heard in their disturbing and tragic tonalities. This subsequently rendered it one of his best-known books in anthropology and refugee studies, and it was praised for its ground-breaking writing style. The trilogy on Argaki was completed with his latest book, *Iron in the Soul: Displacement, Livelihood and Health in Cyprus* (2008) providing a forty-year perspective on displacement, trying to bridge the social sciences and the life sciences with a study of the long-term health effects of socially disruptive change.

Loizos' first anthropological documentary, *Life Chances: Four Families in a Changing Cypriot Village* (1974), highlighted the factors determining social status in Argaki by tracing the life-outcomes of four of his father's siblings. It was followed by *Sophia's People: Eventful Lives* (1985), which, as in the book trilogy, provided a much more empathetic view of the hardship of displacement and the daily struggles of a family to rebuild their lives. In 2001, he co-directed *Returning Home: Revival of a Bosnian Village* with Tone Bringa, a film that dwells on the questions surrounding 'return' – a facet of forced displacement that his own informants had not experienced. His reflections on the methodology of ethnographic film-making resulted in the 1993 book *Innovation in Ethnographic Film: From Innocence to Self-Consciousness, 1955-1985*.

Loizos was a supportive teacher, whose guidance inspired many anthropologists throughout the world and who established the foundations for Cypriot ethnography, which forty years on, is a flourishing field.

Loizos passed away on Friday, 2 March 2012, just two months short of his 75th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Gill; his children, Helena, Daniel and Hannah; and his granddaughter Margaret.