



Dr. Anne Bennett

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Dr. Anne Bennett is a Cultural and Linguistic Anthropologist with a regional specialization in the Middle East. She conducted her dissertation fieldwork in Syria focusing on the Druze – a small, secretive, and esoteric Muslim sect. Her Fulbright-funded research on the Syrian Druze focused especially on issues related to marriage, out-marriage, and group membership; and also on the sect's belief in reincarnation, a belief that is not shared among most Muslims. She continues her long-term interest in the region and Syria in particular through volunteer work with refugees who have recently resettled in southern California. She also has done some research on Arabic heritage language learners in the Inland Empire. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Arizona, Department of Anthropology in Tucson, AZ. Other experience also includes four years as Assistant Director of the UA Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Dr. Bennett has taught anthropology for over fifteen years, most recently at California State University San Bernardino and Citrus College, but also previously at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. In addition to introductory courses in cultural and linguistic anthropology, Dr. Bennett teaches upper division courses on religion, gender, film, language and culture, the Middle East, and the cultural anthropology of California.