

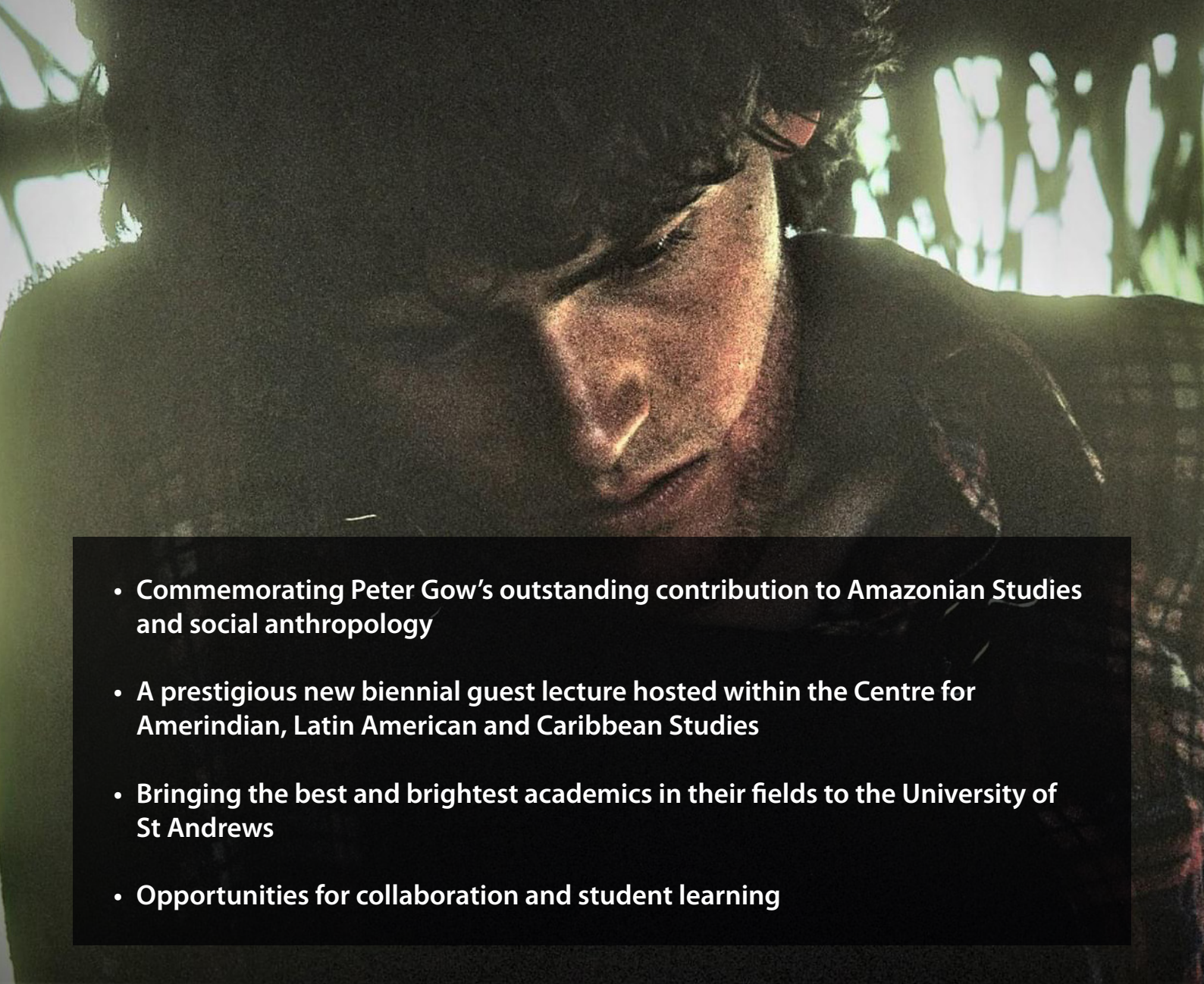


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The Peter Gow Memorial Lecture

*Commemorating the legacy of Professor
Peter Gow at the University of St Andrews*



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- **Commemorating Peter Gow's outstanding contribution to Amazonian Studies and social anthropology**
 - **A prestigious new biennial guest lecture hosted within the Centre for Amerindian, Latin American and Caribbean Studies**
 - **Bringing the best and brightest academics in their fields to the University of St Andrews**
 - **Opportunities for collaboration and student learning**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Professor Peter Gow, who died at the age of 62 in May 2021, was a renowned social anthropologist and Amazonianist whose legacy stretches far beyond the Scottish shores where he was born. Pete transformed an early childhood interest in indigenous peoples into a successful career as a social anthropologist, conducting long-term fieldwork in the Peruvian Amazon with the Yine (Piro) people.

Pete was an eloquent, charismatic and lively figure, making a lasting impression at the various institutions where he studied and lectured over the course of his career, including the University of Cambridge, LSE, the University of Manchester, and finally, St Andrews from 2003. Between 1996 and 1997 he was a visiting professor at the Museu Nacional of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, establishing lasting relationships that continued over the following years.

The Centre for Amerindian, Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CAS) at the University of St Andrews intends to honour Pete's impressive personal and academic legacy by creating the Peter Gow Memorial Lecture. This biennial event will bring preeminent researchers in Pete's field to St Andrews for a prestigious lecture; sharing their knowledge, creating academic research links, and enriching the learning experiences of the students Pete spent his life educating.

PROFESSOR PETER GOW

Born in Edinburgh, Pete completed his undergraduate degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge and his doctoral thesis at London School of Economics. It was during his doctorate that he first undertook field research with the Yine (Piro) people of Peruvian Amazonia, an experience which was to become a defining one for his career and which led to a lifelong relationship with the Yine (Piro) people of Santa Clara village and the wider Urumbamba River area.

Pete was the author of two influential and ground-breaking books: *Of Mixed Blood: Kinship and History in Western Amazonia* (1991) and *An Amazonian Myth and its History* (2001). The first book brought the Yine lifeworld to vivid life in a reorientation of anthropological understanding of kinship away from a focus on 'blood ties' and genealogy, to an exploration of how kinship is created temporally as history, out of experience and the memories of the experience of care. The second book, an extraordinarily original analysis of the history of transformations of a myth in relation to its changing historical context, was made possible by his break-through insight with the Yine: that peoples are not 'acculturated' and thus impoverished. Rather, the Yine are merely caught up in, produced by and actively produce long-term historical processes, as indeed are all Amazonians. Pete regularly published in Spanish and Portuguese and a translation of his first book was recently published in Peru as *De sangre mezclada: Parentesco e historia en la Amazonía Peruana* (2020).

As well as influencing colleagues and his field, Pete is remembered as an inspiring lecturer who trained up generations of doctoral students. Always generous with his time and devilish with his humour, Pete's dedication to his students went above and beyond contractual obligations, and he kept in regular touch with ex-students to collaborate and check on their progress. Even today, tributes continue to arrive in St Andrews for him, such as a recent letter that begins, "you are the reason I fell in love with anthropology and didn't drop out of uni...". In the words of his close friend and colleague Cecilia McCallum, "for graduate students and colleagues, there will be no replacement for Pete; no substitute for his understanding of indigenous worlds, always in ebullient evolution, never static..."

THE PETER GOW MEMORIAL LECTURE

Pete was the Director of CAS from 2003 until 2011 and maintained an active and generous connection with the Centre for the rest of his life. To honour his contribution to the Centre, its students and the wider field, CAS intends to inaugurate a biennial lecture series known as the Peter Gow Memorial Lecture.

This initiative will see leading and emerging experts in Amerindian Studies invited to St Andrews to deliver a prestigious lecture. Whilst this will be held in St Andrews with an audience drawn from our academic community and beyond, it will also be available to watch online, honouring Pete's commitment to equitable learning. Priority will be given to speakers from the global south and former students of Pete's will be invited to act as discussants for each lecture. Recordings of the events will be made available online as a free resource to the wider academic community.





HOW YOU CAN HELP

The cost of hosting one Peter Gow Memorial Lecture will be in the region of £2,000. This sum will allow for the travel and accommodation costs of an expert speaker and will facilitate the wider academic and learning benefits for the St Andrews community.

CAS hope to inaugurate the Lecture with an initial fund of £10,000, thus ensuring that Pete's legacy is honoured for the next 10 years.

A fund of around £30,000 would allow CAS to endow the lecture in perpetuity, ensuring that the legacy of Pete's enthusiasm for social anthropology, his students, and emerging academics is honoured at St Andrews for many years to come.

If you would like to discuss making a contribution to this important fund, please get in touch with Alex Hayes or Craig Rutherford. Contributions can also be made online at the following link:

www.saintsfunder.st-andrews.ac.uk/p/petegowmemoriallecture/

FURTHER INFORMATION

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