

Sociology/Anthropology 10
EXPLORING HUMAN DIVERSITY
Fall 2008
Professors Dizard and Dole

SECOND ASSIGNMENT

In *Everything in Its Path*, Kai Erikson argues that “cultures can be said to set *moral* limits on the behavior of human beings,” that “culture, then is the moral space within which a people live, or rather, the customary ways that develop within that space and make it distinctive” (p.81). For Erikson, critical aspects of the distinctiveness of cultures are the ways in which they shape individual thought, action, and feeling—how culture contributes to the “**organization of sensibility**” (p.83).

Imagine, if you will, that the Bedouin community described by Lila Abu-Lughod experienced a catastrophe on the scale of Buffalo Creek, forcing them to resettle in refugee camps being run by the Egyptian government. Would this disaster have the same impact on the Bedouins as the flood had on Buffalo Creek? You should pay close attention to the similarities and differences in the sentimental bonds that holds/held each community together. In short, we want you to reflect on how the two groups are/were held together and how their respective modes of solidarity shape their responses to disaster.

The completed essay is not to exceed five, double-spaced pages.

Your essay is due in class on Tuesday, October 28.