The **Cyberspace Anthropology**:

A Foreword

David Hakken

(State University of New York Institute of Technology)

The origins of the collection

This special issue of the *Jurnal Antropologi Indonesia* originated in a suggestion by Nuria W. Soeharto, a student in the Department of **Anthropology** at the University of Indonesia. She wanted a session on the Internet and Identity included in the 3rd Journal conference scheduled for July, 2002, in Denpasar, Bali. Her interest in the topic flowed from her own experience of and research on the role of the Internet in the Indonesian *reformasi* of 1998. With the positive response of Dr. M.A. Yunita T. Winarto and the organizing committee, in October, 2001, Nuria emailed me. While not an Indonesianist, I had an interest in **cyberspace anthropology** that Nuria had ascertained through browsing the World Wide Web. She enquired as to whether I would be interested in helping organize and participate in the session.

I was one of the earliest of several ethnographers who found themselves studying **cyberspace** and the automated information technologies (AITs) on which it depends. Since that's where most of the computers were, it initially made sense that these studies were mostly carried out in the West, [1] and often from an applied perspective. These two factors gave early **cyberspace** ethnography its predominant tone. For example, ethnographers were employed by corporations to address the 'productivity paradox'. That is, the accelerating AIT investment in Western workplaces was statistically associated with an output decrease, rather than the expected in- crease, well into the late 1990s.