



**California Institute
of Integral Studies**

FREE LECTURE IN NAMASTE HALL!

Monday, January 30 ~ 7:00 - 10:00 pm

“DEBT: THE FIRST 5,000 YEARS”

By David Graeber, *Goldsmiths University, London*



The renowned anthropologist David Graeber has a strong claim to being the house theorist of Occupy Wall Street. A veteran of the antiglobalization uprisings in Seattle and Genoa, he helped orchestrate the first “General Assembly” in New York this summer, and has since become one of the movement’s most outspoken defenders.

Thomas Meaney of *The New York Times Book Review* states: “Graeber’s most important contribution to the movement may owe less to his activism as an anarchist than to his background as an anthropologist. His recent book *DEBT: The First 5,000 Years* (Melville House, \$32) reads like a lengthy field report on the state of our economic and moral disrepair. In the best tradition of anthropology, Graeber treats debt ceilings, subprime mortgages and credit default swaps as if they were the exotic practices of some self-destructive tribe. Written in a brash, engaging style, the book is also a philosophical inquiry into the nature of debt — where it came from and how it evolved. Graeber’s claim is that the past 400 years of Western history represent a grievous departure from how human societies have traditionally thought about our obligations to one another. What makes the work more than a screed is its intricate examination of societies from ancient Mesopotamia to 1990s Madagascar, and thinkers ranging from Rabelais to Nietzsche — and to George W. Bush’s brother Neil.”

David Graeber received his B.A. from the State University of New York at Purchase in 1984. He gained his Masters degree and Doctorate at the University of Chicago, where he won a Fulbright fellowship and completed his Ph.D. thesis on magic, slavery and politics in Madagascar.

***** This Lecture is co-sponsored by the Social and Cultural Anthropology Department and
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