

Cultural Anthropology

Welcome!!!

What is Anthropology?

- The term:
- Derived from the Greek term, Anthropo..
- Meaning - “Human beings or Human kind”

- Logia - “Knowledge of/The Study of ..”
- ...the study of human beings...

Anthropology

- ...the study of the differences and similarities, both biological and cultural, in human populations...in all periods and in all parts of the world. (Ember)
- ...the *scientific* study of humankind, in all times and places. (Haviland)

Anthropology

- Anthropology - The *systematic* study of humankind.
- What do we mean by the term systematic?
- Scientific Method
- Empirical
- Positivism
- Concept
- Variable

Systematic - Continued

- Hypothesis
- Theory
- Other Sciences that study human behavior?
- Sociology
- Political Science
- Economics
- Psychology - others?

Branches of Anthropology

- Physical Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Anthropological Linguistics
- Cultural Anthropology

Physical Anthropology

- Concerned with **two broad areas** of investigation:
- **Human Evolution** - Human Paleontology (Paleo- ancient/prehistoric- fossil remains)
 - Paleoanthropology
 - Primatology- Study of primates (Apes, monkeys, prosimians)
 - Forensic Anthropology

Physical Anthropology: Cont'd

- **Human Variation** - How and why the physical traits of contemporary human populations vary across the world.
- ...is there such a thing as human variation?
- What?
- Anatomical Features
- Internal Physiological Traits
- Blood Composition

Archaeology

- ...the discipline that focuses on the study of the artifacts from past societies to determine the lifestyles, history, and evolution of those societies.
- **Material Culture** - Tangible products of human society. Such as? (Middens)
- **Artifacts** - (Text) ...objects that have been made or modified by humans...(and that can be removed from the site and taken to the laboratory for further analysis.)

Material Culture: Cont'd

- **Features** - ...artifacts made or modified by people, but they cannot be carried away.
- **Ecofacts** - objects found in the natural environment that were not made or altered by humans but were used by them.

Archaeology: Cont'd

- Prehistoric Archaeology - Attempts to reconstruct cultures that existed before writing.
- Historic Archaeology - Reconstructs the cultures of people who used writing and about whom historical documents have been written.
- Classical Archaeology - Study of specific ancient civilizations.

Anthropological Linguistics

Four Branches of Linguistics

- Historical Linguistics - Deals with the emergence of language.
- Descriptive (Structural) Linguistics - Study of sound systems, grammatical systems and meaning.
- Ethnolinguistics - Examines the relationship between language and culture.

Anthropological Linguistics

- Sociolinguistics - Examines the relationship between language and social relations.
(Behavior)

Cultural Anthropology

The study of specific contemporary cultures.

- **Ethnography** - The systematic description of a culture based on firsthand observation. (Participant observation, empirical analysis)
- **Ethnology** - The comparative study of contemporary cultures to determine cultural similarities and differences.

Holism - A comprehensive approach

- Holism - A perspective in Anthropology that attempts to study a culture by looking at all parts of the system and how those parts are interrelated.
- Holistic Approach :
- Involves both biological and sociocultural aspects of humanity.
- Involves the deepest possible time frame, from the earliest beginnings to present day.

Holism - Cont'd

- Involves the many different aspects of human experience.