



### A Genealogy of Method

Anthropology's Ancestors and the Meaning of Culture

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**Explores the concept of culture as understood through the practice of ethnography in social anthropology.**

What does it mean to study culture – and what does culture finally mean? Whether we compare cultures or delve deeply into the dynamics of a single social order, anthropology's task is to confront the interplay of the human condition and the cultural form. Tracing the genealogy of our touchstone method, ethnography, and investigating its relation to alternative disciplines that try to get at the heart of the human experience – philology, history, and social relations – this volume considers whether contemporary anthropology might, at last, be able to define culture, after more than a century of investigation.

#### Key selling points

- Presents original lectures on the history of anthropological theory.
- Describes in detail a series of methodological approaches, especially ethnography, and considers the historical relation of our subject to the way we have studied it.
- Engages with the question of comparison.
- Sheds light on contemporary thought on the question of culture.

#### Contents

Introduction: The Culture of Anthropology; Lecture One: The Question of Religion; Lecture Two: The Serendipity of Method; Lecture Three: The Relevance of History; Lecture Four: The Meaning of Culture; Bibliography

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