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Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Fredrik Barth. An Intellectual Biography

One of the towering figures of 20th century social anthropology, Fredrik Barth's career spans six decades (his retrospective 2006 essay is entitled 'Sixty years in anthropology'). Sceptical of grand theory, Barth (b. 1928) first made his mark with a study of ecological relationships among ethnic groups in Swat (Pakistan), followed by studies of political and economic systems in Pakistan and Iran, emphasising the role of agency and social process rather than structure and function. He would later carry out fieldwork in western Norway, New Guinea, Oman, Bali and Bhutan, and Barth's voracious appetite for fieldwork as a means to intellectual development is a key to understanding his thought and contributions to anthropology.

This book about a central 20th century anthropologist traces the development of his ideas and explores the substance of his contributions, and in so doing, it is also a contribution to the history of anthropology, raising questions to do with the unity and diversity of humanity, cultural relativism and anthropology as a hybrid activity 'between art and science', seen through the lens of one of its main practitioners.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Thomas Hylland Eriksen is Professor of social anthropology at the University of Oslo and the author of numerous books on anthropological and cultural issues, including *Small Places, Large Issues* and *Tyranny of the Moment*, which have both enjoyed tremendous success in Norway and abroad.

From 1993 to 2001 he was affiliated with the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo. His research spans ethnic relations, nation building and cultural dynamism in multicultural societies and he has written several books on such subjects. He has carried out field work in Mauritius and Trinidad.

Fredrik Barth is one of the towering figures of twentieth-century anthropology. This intellectual history traces the development of Barth's ideas and explores the substance of his contributions. In an accessible style, Thomas Eriksen's biographical study reveals the magic of ethnography to professional anthropologists and non-practitioners alike. Exploring his six decade career, it follows Barth from early ecological studies in Pakistan, to political studies in Iran, to groundbreaking fieldwork in Norway, New Guinea, Bali and Bhutan. Eriksen argues that Barth's voracious appetite for fieldwork is a defining feature of his work.

A definitive biography of Fredrik Barth, one of the leading lights of anthropology, by one of today's finest anthropologists. Saved in: Bibliographic Details. Between Art and Science -- Notes -- List of Works by Fredrik Barth -- List of Other References -- Index. 520. |a A definitive biography of Fredrik Barth, one of the leading lights of anthropology, by one of today's finest anthropologists. 588. |a Description based on publisher supplied metadata and other sources. Fredrik Barth: an intellectual biography. Add to My Bookmarks Export citation. Type. Setting up reading intentions help you organise your course reading. It makes it easy to scan through your lists and keep track of progress. Here's an example of what they look like: Your reading intentions are also stored in your profile for future reference. How do I set a reading intention. To set a reading intention, click through to any list item, and look for the panel on the left hand side

Fredrik Barth is one of the towering figures of anthropology, we ask his biographer, Thomas Hylland Eriksen, what propelled him to choose his subject. In this endeavour, Fredrik Barth (b. 1928) is an undisputed master. One of the most influential anthropologists of the latter half of the 20th century, Barth's career spans six decades and has brought him to more than a dozen field sites. This book tells the story of Barth's life from his student days in Chicago just after the war to his retirement years in Oslo; and in doing so, it highlights the power of the ethnographic gaze and the critical potential inherent in an anthropological approach to human life.