

ETH1.Introduction

3. The “ethno” concept

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EQUIPO DE
ANTROPOLOGÍA
DE LA RELIGIÓN

SECCIÓN ETNOLÓGICA
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The etymology of “ethno”

Possibly *éthnos* comes from the ancient Greek root *éthōs*, first the place with a group lives together, and then, acquired habit or custom. *Éthnos* in ancient Greek means a "group, crowd, nation or people" that lives together and have certain habits. An appropriate term to account for the socially constructed diversity of ways of being human



Malinowski in the Trobriand Islands, 1910. Available by Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.



The problem of the "ethno"

Old ideas of the ethnic:

- Division of the world and the academic work in "western modernity"
 - anthropology as a science of "the others".
 - the "ethnic" and the "cultural" as marks of the other



Malinowski in the Trobriand Islands, 1910. Available by Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.



Old ideas of the ethnic:

- Images of the "other":
 - exotic
 - static
 - from the past
- Essentialized ethnic identity
- Culture as an explanations of the "error" or the "strange"

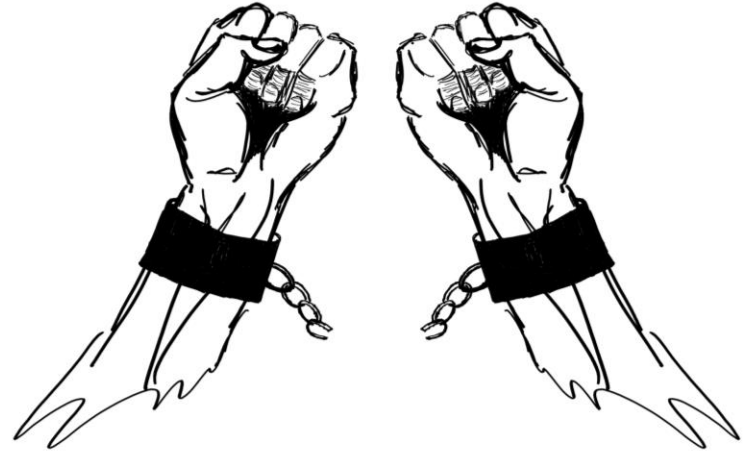


Malinowski in the Trobriand Islands, 1910. Available by Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.



The decolonial turn:

- End of the World War II
- De-colonization process
- "Western society" as a society among others
- Anthropological approaches to Western Society
- Provincialize the "western culture"



Contemporary views on Ethnicity

- Ethnic identity as a contrastive phenomenon
- Connections among difference and power
- The porosity of borders
- The study of interethnic relations and frictions



A simplified scheme for organizing terms

Ethnography → studies and describes the culture and society of a human community

Ethnology → makes comparative analysis from various ethnographies

Anthropology → makes global analysis of human beings societies through general models

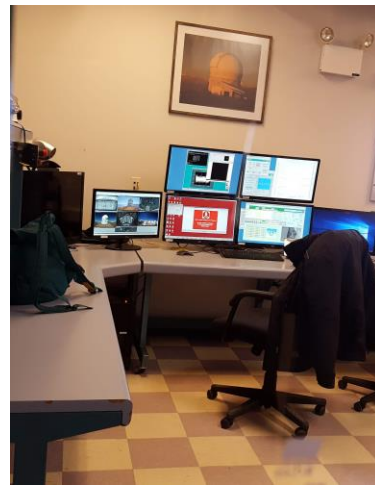


Ethno-astronomy

- It is not the study of “extrange”-astronomies
- It is not the study of “exotic”- astronomies

ALL astronomies are “cultural” or “ethnic”
astronomies

- Ethnoastronomy is a perspective interested in ALL living astronomies, understanding them in their particularities, as social and cultural facts, integral parts of the social live.



Credits

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