



Culture Incribed

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Anthropologist of the Fortnight

By Rebecca Allen

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown (1881-1955)

Alfred Reginald Radcliffe-Brown developed Structural Functionalism. He wanted to find universal laws determining societal behavior. By focusing on the structures he put people in the situation of place holders and the structures as social facts. He looked at society as a whole functioning as an organism. One of his studies was on the Ba Thonga, the Nama, and the Tongans of which he wrote his article "The Mother's Brother in South Africa". He tried to use the kinship structures of these cultures to determine scientific laws that would apply to all cultures. Radcliffe-Brown especially focused on the ideas of customs as a way to maintain stability in societies.

Anthropological Terms of Interest

Structural Functionalism

Radcliffe-Brown is credited with the notion of **Structural Functionalism**. Radcliffe-Brown wanted to know how societies stay together. To do this, he compared the social systems of different societies. By identifying a custom's cross-cultural similarity, he argued he was able to discover the custom's "real" function. By studying these **functions**, Radcliffe-Brown endeavored to describe those features that maintain the **structure** of society.

Tuesday Night Social Hour

Our next "Doghouse Rock" will be **Tuesday, March 7th around 7pm-10pm** at the John's New England Pizza, SE corner of Shaw and Woodrow (near Starbucks). The last social hour included over 14 Anthropology practitioners, students and faculty from Applied Earth Works, Fresno City and Fresno State. Drinking is NOT a prerequisite. Bring your friends, anthro or otherwise!

AnthroClub Business

Last week's meeting was very successful. We were visited by Simon Haeder, Senator, College of Social Sciences, Associated Students. He told us about the fledgling Social Science honor society Pi Gamma Mu and how to join. We also decided on a T-shirt design and are moving on that project. Get ready to support the club through a t-shirt purchase! We are fiscally sound and we are in the process of inviting a distinguished guest speaker for April 27th.

Join Pi Gamma Mu, Social Science Honor Society

Requirements: Applicant must: Be a junior, senior, have a B average or better, have completed 20 of more semester hours in social science courses, pay a \$ 35 life-time initiation fee. Contact Simon at zemonh@csufresno.edu.

AnthroGeek

Student: Hey AnthroGeek, what do you call it when the structural functionalism of Radcliffe-Brown, Durkheim and Malinowski is combined with the Structuralism of Saussure and Lévi-Strauss and the post-structuralism of Lacan, Barthes, and Foucault?

AnthroGeek: Technically speaking, I don't know. You've thoroughly geeked me!

Student: "Dys-Functional Structuralism", get it!?!



Art by Rebecca Allen

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Kids Day
Will Be
Here Soon!

Join the
Anthro Club in a
1 day event:

“Kids Day 2006”

When: Tuesday
March 14th

Where: Meet us @
CSUF, Joyal Admn.
Bldg.

Time: 5:30 a.m. –
sold out

Our Goal: Sell 100
Fresno Bee special
“Kids Day” editions
for \$1 each.

Why: Help
Children’s Hospital
raise funds and help
valley residents
learn about the
healthcare services
and programs
provided by
Children’s Hospital.

“March 14, 2006--
all united for the
same cause, the kids
at Children’s
Hospital Central
California”