

Assignment 2. HCW. Thinking Anthropologically

Hello Everybody,

This week's readings will help you to understand the ways in which anthropologists think about their field research, the notion of culture, and the events and circumstances in the field. Note that much of the new ideas emerge from careful observation and honest documentation in the field. Anthropologists do not simply select what they are going to write based on their previous assumptions and knowledge. They bring up new issues even if (and sometimes particularly because) they do not fit in the established concepts and notions. (For example, Rosaldo could not find "culture" in the conventional sense of the term. He was overwhelmed by the social change, migration, and technological transformation among the Ilongot. As a result, he reformulated the understanding of culture in a new way). It is from this kind of sensitive and dynamic observation and thinking that new theories emerge. Your task is to learn about how they do that.

Write an up to 2-page long reflection essay like you did last time while reflecting on the following.

What are some of the principles of anthropological thinking you have learned from the readings for this week? (In other words, how do anthropologists think about their studies and formulate their research questions and findings?) Provide concrete examples from the readings. How do these principles influence your understanding of culture?

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