

# The Anthropology Of Religion Magic And Witchcraft

## 3rd Edition

Introducing Anthropology of Religion Anthropology of Religion: The Basics Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Religion Anthropology of Religion The Anthropology of Religion Anthropology of Religion Anthropology of Religion A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion The Anthropology of Religion Introducing Anthropology of Religion The Anthropology of Religion The Anthropology of Religion The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft Religion and Culture Anthropology and Religion Introducing Anthropology of Religion Religion and Anthropology The Oxford Handbook of the Anthropology of Religion Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Religion Selected Readings in the Anthropology of Religion In Search of the Sacred Jack David Eller James Bielo Michael Banton Richley H. Crapo Fiona Bowie Stephen D. Glazier Kerr Payne Michael Lambek Peter Metcalf Jack David Eller Bowie Rebecca L. Stein Annemarie De Waal Malefijt Robert L. Winzeler Jack David Eller Brian Morris Joel Robbins Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth Stephen D. Glazier Clinton Bennett

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this lively and readable survey introduces students to key areas of the field and shows how to apply an anthropological approach to the study of contemporary world religions written by an experienced teacher it covers all of the traditional topics of anthropology of religion including definitions and theories beliefs symbols and language and ritual and myth and combines analytic and conceptual discussion with up to date ethnography and theory Eller includes copious examples from religions around the world both familiar and unfamiliar and two mini case studies in each chapter he also explores classic and contemporary anthropological contributions to important but often overlooked issues such as violence and fundamentalism morality secularization religion in america and new religious movements introducing anthropology of religion demonstrates that anthropology is both relevant and essential for understanding the world we inhabit today

anthropology of religion the basics is an accessible and engaging introductory text organized around key issues that all anthropologists of religion face this book uses a wide range of historical and ethnographic examples to address not only what is studied by anthropologists of religion but how such studies are approached it addresses questions such as how do human agents interact with gods and spirits what is the nature of doing religious ethnography can the immaterial be embodied in the body language and material objects what is the role of ritual time and place in religion why is charisma important for religious movements how do global processes interact with religions with international case studies from a range of

religious traditions suggestions for further reading and inventive reflection boxes anthropology of religion the basics is an essential read for students approaching the subject for the first time

as the basic questions of social structure were elucidated there came a quickening of interest among social anthropologists in the study of religion chapters in this book include religion as a cultural system clifford geertz colour classification in ndembu religion victor w turner religion problems of definition and explanation melford e spiro fathers elders and ghosts in edo religion r e bradbury territorial groupings and religion among the iraqw edward h winter first published in 1966

this text offers an alternative to the case driven approach that the sole use of a reader tends to foster it provides students with ways of conceptualizing what religion is what its social and psychological functions are the nature of religious symbolism and religious behaviour and the organizational structure of religions all the standard topics are covered e g ideology and symbolism ritual and ceremony organizational forms and social and psychological functions of religion as well as ones of more recent interest such as religion and gender the psychology of religion and pilgrimage extended narrative examples illustrate the theoretical and analytic discussions in the text expose students to a variety of different religions and provide real world examples of the concepts of each chapter an integrated student study guide self test materials at the end of each chapter allows students to evaluate their own mastery of each chapter determine what they need to review further and prepare for course tests the text is copiously illustrated with ethnographic examples from both western and non western religions

this introductory text combines discussion of the origin and development of ideas and debates within the anthropology of religion with a look at where the subject is going today provides students with a complete introduction to the anthropology of religion uses worldwide ethnographies to illustrate the theory includes extensive bibliographies and a list of films and videos that encourage students to explore the field further encourages students to see that anthropology is not just about reading or doing fieldwork but offers an enriching way of looking at the world each chapter introduces the central theoretical ideas in the anthropology of religion and illustrates them with specific case studies such as witchcraft in cameroon shamanism in the arctic or women s initiation ceremonies links contemporary ideas and practices with the work of nineteenth and early twentieth century scholars

chapters by expert contributors overview the most significant topics and trends in the anthropology of religion

the anthropological study of religion attends to religious life through the study of everyday practices rather than understanding religion as a set of beliefs anthropologists examine the ways that practices and belief are constitutive of each other via a broad spectrum of representations embodiments and ethical and social practices these everyday practices are constituted by and constituting of many aspects of social life including gender desire performance politics and power anthropologists thus recognize that religious life is a thoroughly social practice and yet identifiable as transformative and sometimes mysterious subject of investigation anthropologists of religion are not concerned with discovering the truth or falsehood of religion they are more interested in how religious ideas express a people s cosmology ie notions of how the universe is organised and the role of humans within the world many study rituals which incorporate symbols and note how these often help to bring communities together in times of crisis or special points in the calendar anthropology of religion outlines the scope of the anthropological literature on religion drawing both on classic and more recent studies it supports anthropological approaches to the study of religion from all the subdisciplines cultural anthropology archaeology physical anthropology linguistic

anthropology and others in the later twentieth century debate has arisen concerning the scope of the anthropology of religion do anthropologists of religion only study religions in tribal settings is it exclusively the study of non western religions is it to be limited to the study of religion among oppressed and marginalised people the focus of anthropological study has shifted from the study of tribal to modern religions a number of well received studies have analysed religion in developing societies europe and the united states a number of promising studies have focused on ritual and ritual forms from this perspective rituals are seen as the fundamental unit of religious expression and the building blocks for all religions this compilation will serve as an excellent tool for scholars practitioners and academics working in the field of migration and religion

a reader in the anthropology of religion is a collection of some of the most significant classic and contemporary writings on the anthropology of religion it includes both material whose theme is religion in a straightforward and obvious sense as well as material that has expanded how we might look at religion and the horizons of what we mean by religion linking it to broader questions of culture and politics

this book describes how anthropologists in the twentieth century went about documenting the religions of those independent peoples who still lived beyond the frontiers of the global economy and the world religions it begins by examining the enormous popularity of the newly invented field of anthropology in the nineteenth century as a site of multiple intellectual developments its climax was frazer s golden bough which is a pillar of modernity second only to darwin s origin of species but its notion of religion was entirely speculative when anthropologists went to see for themselves they encountered formidable obstacles how to access a people s most profound understandings of the world and everything in it holding fast to the premise that ethnographers have no special powers of seeing inside other people s brains this book teaches students to proceed slowly a step at a time watching how people perform rituals great and small asking questions that seem stupid to their hosts and struggling to translate abstract terms in unrecorded languages using a handful of examples from different continents the book shows the potential of an anthropological approach to religion

this clear and engaging guide introduces students to key areas of the field and shows how to apply an anthropological approach to the study of religion in the contemporary world written by an experienced teacher it covers major traditional topics including definitions theories and beliefs as well as symbols myth and ritual the book also explores important but often overlooked issues such as morality violence fundamentalism secularization and new religious movements the chapters all contain lively case studies of religions practiced around the world the second edition of introducing anthropology of religion contains updated theoretical discussion plus fresh ethnographic examples throughout in addition to a brand new chapter on vernacular religion eller provides a significantly revised chapter on the emerging anthropologies of christianity and islam the book features more material on contemporary societies as well as new coverage of topics such as pilgrimage and paganism images a glossary and questions for discussion are now included and additional resources are provided via a companion website

this concise and accessible textbook introduces students to the anthropological study of religion it examines religious expression from a cross cultural perspective and exposes students to the complexities of religion in small scale and complex societies the chapters incorporate key theoretical concepts and a wide range of ethnographic material the fifth edition of the anthropology of religion magic and witchcraft offers a revised introduction covering the foundations of the anthropology of religion anthropological methods and a push toward decolonizing the anthropology of religion expanded coverage of symbols healing wizardry and the intersections of religion with other social institutions new case study

material with examples drawn from around the globe especially from indigenous communities marginalia in each chapter introducing provocative small case examples related to the chapter many of these can be used as prompts for further research small in class case studies or examples for hands on learning a new chapter on religion and healing especially useful for anthropology programs without representation of four fields as it provides a wider and more interdisciplinary application of the discipline a consistent review of foundations from chapter to chapter linking material and enabling students to connect what they are learning throughout the course and further resources via a comprehensive companion website including interactive activities critical case studies updated study questions bibliographical suggestions including video and color images this is an essential guide for students encountering the anthropology of religion for the first time and also for those with an ongoing interest in this fascinating field

a comprehensive anthropological study of religion traces the history of the discipline discusses the archeological discoveries that have shed light on the development of religious consciousness and examines the various manifestations functions and changes of religious customs and beliefs

drawing from ethnographic examples found throughout the world this text covers what anthropologists know or think about religion how they have studied it and how they interpret or explain it a key text for students of upper division courses in the anthropological study of religion

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this important textbook provides a critical introduction to the social anthropology of religion focusing on more recent classical ethnographies comprehensive free of scholastic jargon engaging and comparative in approach it covers all the major religious traditions that have been studied concretely by anthropologists shamanism buddhism islam hinduism christianity and its relation to african and melanesian religions and contemporary neopaganism eschewing a thematic approach and treating religion as a social institution and not simply as an ideology or symbolic system the book follows the dual heritage of social anthropology in combining an interpretative understanding and sociological analysis the book will appeal to all students of anthropology whether established scholars or initiates to the discipline as well as to students of the social sciences and religious studies and for all those interested in comparative religion

anthropologists of religion study themes central to the understanding of humanity such as the power of ritual the authority of language and the exemplary character of myth this handbook brings together leading specialists to explain the historical and intellectual background to how anthropologists approach religion and to show why its study remains a dynamic means of reflecting on contemporary life around the globe each chapter combines

overviews of a given topic with original observations and the handbook is structured for ease of teaching five sections guide the reader on different routes through the field helping to provoke further questions on historical and intellectual approaches indigenous religions world religions enduring themes and emergent themes the aim is to help students and researchers recognize how and why the field has been organized in certain ways but also to make them feel confident enough to challenge its assumptions and to consider directions it might go in the future this handbook provides an excellent introduction to some of the most important elements of anthropology including the discipline's emphases on comparison embodied experience and scepticism toward taken for granted categories it also shows how religious practices remain entangled with some of the pressing themes and questions of our time including how we perceive and treat our environment ways in which we deal with religious and cultural differences and the religious dimensions of virtual and mediated means of communication

conference on new approaches in social anthropology

brings together in one volume a number of key theoretical and methodological advances in the anthropological study of religion chapters cover important topics not ordinarily included in books dealing with the anthropology of religion e.g. bipedalism the study of alcohol film and video images notions of religious agency in addition this collection is intended to build bridges between anthropologists of religion and religious studies scholars over the last four decades anthropologists have grappled with the dialectical relationship between the examination of cultures from the emic or insider perspective and the etic or outsider perspective nowhere is this creative tension more evident than in the anthropological study of religion in this volume anthropologists and religious studies scholars come to terms not only with a landscape that has shifted fundamentally but a landscape that is still shifting essays in this collection raise new and important issues for the anthropological study of religion in new and important ways in intensely personal essays a number of contributors address two fundamental concerns in the study of religion 1 how should anthropologists deal with the beliefs and practices of others and 2 how should anthropologists deal with their own religious backgrounds and beliefs as these may affect their understanding of the beliefs and practices of others a partial resolution to both questions is necessary before the anthropological study of religion can advance to a higher level

this text traces the growth and development of two related disciplines anthropology and the study of religions locating these disciplines within the intellectual climate of the 19th century the study considers the contributions of scholars such as james george frazer f max muller emile durkheim mary douglas and clifford geertz within an historical framework the author argues that both anthropologists and students of religion have abandoned an objective approach in favour of personal engagement with their subjects replacing observation with conversation monologue with dialogue a text based with people based approach he reveals how each discipline has influenced the other both in terms of methodology and by the provision of data the book also explores the criticism levelled at both disciplines that they have aided colonial domination of the developing world

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## Introduction

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