

Smoky Mountain Bible Institute (Est. 2009)

Social Science 104 Anthropology

A good definition is given by the European Science foundation – the social sciences are those subjects which examine and explain human beings. ... The major social sciences are Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics, Politics, Psychology and Sociology.

This month lets tackle Anthropology. Anthropology is the scientific study of humans, human behavior and societies in the past and present. Anthropology breaks down from Greek Anthropos (man) logos (words), so words about or the study of mankind. According to the American Anthropological Association this field of study has four subfields. Biological, Cultural, Linguistic and Archeological. Archaeology, which studies human activity through investigation of physical evidence, is thought of as a branch of anthropology in the United States and Canada, while in Europe, it is viewed as a discipline in its own right or grouped under other related disciplines, such as history.

Archaeology: which has its own wing here at the institute just visit <https://splctn.360unite.com/blog-archive> Archaeologists study human culture by analyzing the objects people have made. They carefully remove from the ground such things as pottery and tools, and they map the locations of houses, trash pits, and burials in order to learn about the daily lives of a people. They also analyze human remains to gain information on a people's diet and diseases. Archaeologists collect the remains of plants, animals, and soils from the places where people lived in order to understand how people used and affected their environments. Archaeologists are concerned with explaining differences and similarities in human societies across space and time.

Biological Anthropology: will have some crossover with the biology wing of the institute see the above link, Biological anthropologists seek to understand how humans adapt to different environments, what causes disease and early death. To do this, they study humans (living and dead), This field is heavily influence by macroevolutionary bias and assumptions, so conclusions and assertions that go beyond thousands of years must be evaluated in light of their assumed paradigms. They are also interested in how biology and culture work together to shape our lives. They are interested in explaining the similarities and differences that are found among humans across the world. Through this work, biological anthropologists have shown that, while humans do vary in their biology and behavior, they are more similar to one another than different.

Cultural Anthropology: Sociocultural anthropologists explore how people in different places live and understand the world around them. They want to know what people think is important and the rules they make about how they should interact with one another. Anthropologists listen to all voices and viewpoints in order to understand how societies vary and what they have in common. Sociocultural anthropologists often learn about diverse peoples and cultures by spending time living among them. They try to understand the perspectives, practices, and social organization of other groups. A bias that can be found in this area is that it treats all religious systems as creations of the societal group. While this is true for false beliefs and practices, we as Christians claim that the creator of the universe is the source of our life and faith and belief system. We as Christians would be motivated to study other cultures in order to share the Gospel with them. We would not what to study a people just to leave them in darkness.

Linguistic Anthropology: Linguistic anthropologists study the many ways people communicate. Looking at how language works in all its different forms, and how it changes over time. It also means looking at what we believe about language and communication, and how we use language in our lives. This includes the ways we use language to build and share meaning, to form or change identities, and to make or change relations. For linguistic anthropologists, language and communication are a key part of how societies and cultures form.

The bulk source of today's article is from the American Anthropological Association, I of course made adjustment for our biblical world view.

In Christ
Pastor Portier