“Essential” Ethnographies and Readings in Anthropology

In response to a request from the graduate students in our department for a list of the “essential” ethnographies and readings in anthropology, I asked the faculty to each nominate ethnographies and other books that they considered essential for anthropologists. Because each of us could name many items in each category, to keep the listing to a manageable size, I asked the faculty to limit their nominations to 5 in each category. Making these choices proved challenging as each of us had to omit from our lists items that we consider very highly. Some nominated classics, others newer texts, and some a combination of both. Below are the lists that result from this process. (Dates in square brackets are the original publication dates.) Keep in mind that these lists are not the result of faculty discussion and consensus, but represent their individual forced choices. As well, no one on the faculty listed their own ethnographies or books, but those are important too, of course. I hope this list is useful.

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1. Essential Ethnographies


Flueckiger, Joyce Burkhalter. 2006. *In Amma’s Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.


2. Essential Books (Not Ethnographies)


Harris, Marvin. 1999. *Theories of Culture in Post-modern Times*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira.


