

当代人类学家之一：Marshall Sahlins

来自Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Marshall David Sahlins (born December 27, 1930, Chicago, Illinois) is a prominent American anthropologist. He received both a Bachelors and Masters degree at the University of Michigan where he studied with Leslie White, and earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1954 where his main intellectual influences included Karl Polanyi and Julian Steward. He returned to teach at the University of Michigan and in the 1960s became politically active, protesting against the Vietnam War. In the late 1960s he also spent two years in Paris, where he was exposed to French intellectual life (and particularly the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss) and the student protests of May 1968. In 1973 he moved to the University of Chicago, where he is today the Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology Emeritus.

Sahlins' work has focused on demonstrating the power that culture has to shape people's perceptions and actions. He has been particularly interested to demonstrate that culture has a unique power to motivate people that is not derived from biology. His early work focused on debunking the idea of 'economically rational man' and to demonstrate that economic systems adapted to particular circumstances in culturally specific ways. After the publication of *Culture and Practical Reason* in 1976 his focus shifted to the relation between history and anthropology, and the way different cultures understand and make history. Although his focus has been the entire Pacific, Sahlins has done most of his research in Fiji and Hawaii.

In his *Evolution and Culture* (1960) he touched the areas of cultural evolution and neoevolutionism. He divided the evolution of societies into 'general' and 'specific'. General evolution is the tendency of cultural and social systems to increase in complexity, organization and adaptiveness to environment. However, as the various cultures are not isolated, there is interaction and a diffusion of their qualities (like technological inventions). This leads cultures to develop in different ways (specific evolution), as various elements are introduced to them in different combinations and on different stages of evolution.

In the late 1990s Sahlins became embroiled in a heated debate with Gananath Obeyesekere over the details of Captain James Cook's death in the Hawaiian Islands in 1779. At the heart of the debate was how to understand the rationality of indigenous people. Obeyesekere insisted that indigenous people thought in essentially the same way as Westerners and was concerned that any argument otherwise would paint them as 'irrational' and 'uncivilized'. Sahlins, on the other hand, was critical of Western thought and argued that indigenous cultures were distinct and equal to those of the West.

In 2001, Marshall Sahlins became the executive publisher of a small press called Prickly Paradigm.

See also

Original affluent society

Economic anthropology

Publications

Social Stratification in Polynesia (1958)

Moala: Culture and Nature on a Fijian Island (1962)

Evolution and Culture (ed., 1960)

Stone Age Economics (1974: ISBN 0422745308)

Tribesmen (1968)

The Use and Abuse of Biology (1976: ISBN 0472087770)

Culture and Practical Reason (1976: ISBN 0226733599)

Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities (1981: ISBN 0472027212)

Waiting For Foucault (1999: ISBN 1891754114)

Islands of History (1985: ISBN 0226733572)

Anahulu: The Anthropology of History in the Kingdom of Hawaii (1992: ISBN 0226733637)

How "Natives" Think: About Captain Cook, for Example (1995: ISBN 0-226-73368-8)

Culture in Practice (2000: ISBN 094229937X)

Apologies to Thucydides: Understanding History as Culture and Vice Versa (2004: ISBN 0226734005)



第22辑

往期查询

- 费孝通百年纪念专题
- 新书推荐
- 郭净文集
- 王铭铭文集
- 陈永龄纪念文集
- 李安宅研究专题
- 萧梅文集
- 庄孔韶文集
- 胡鸿保文集
- 翁乃群文集
- 林耀华百年诞辰专题
- 《探讨》目录
- 列维斯特劳斯逝世纪念专题
- 人类学的社会理论
- 藏彝走廊专题
- 吴文藻专题
- 王东杰文集

学术链接

复旦大学社会科学高等研究院

历史与社会高等研究所

CCPN中国比较研究网

社会学人类学中国网

中国社会文化人类学网

云南大学民族研究院

中国社会学网

中国学术论坛

人类学在线

[中心简介](#) | [评论简介](#) | [探讨简介](#) | [探讨目录](#) | [编辑委员会](#) | [稿约](#) | [版权声明](#)

版权所有: Cranth.cn 《中国人类学评论》杂志

地址: 北京市海淀区中关村南大街27号

Email: cranth@gmail.com

电话: 010 68936031

技术支持: [北京网站建设](#)——三幕天