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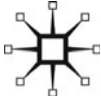


Writing Anthropology: A Call for Uninhibited Methods

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WRITING ANTHROPOLOGY

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*À Mémé Suzon et en mémoire de Pépé Roger, mytiques
fondateurs de notre tribu bellocoise.*

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Preface

Dear anthropologist, student of anthropology, brother, I must warn you before you read further. Some pages in this little book might not be of your liking; perhaps they will even infuriate you, and if they do I would like you to picture my apologising face. Far be it from me to hurt your feelings, or drown you in my stream of consciousness, or worse, put you off anthropology. My more benign intention is to recall some of the challenges inherent in writing cultural anthropology, and to offer a word of caution on the political correctness you are bound to come across in the field. To disturb political correctness, this mundane ingredient of socialisation in no way unique to ethnographic research, is to explore what structures the discipline and therefore respect it. So I request your lenience, dear reader, towards the hesitant narrative that follows. I shall not expect you to embrace my views but to critically evaluate them. Consider what you would accept and reject. I only hope to either shape or confirm your own convictions, whether they converge with, or recede from, mine.

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