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Q3(c)

Discuss the contemporary challenges in fieldwork method in anthropological research.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Fieldwork tradition in anthropology

(a) Fieldwork tradition in anthropology

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Malinowski

Long-term participant observation and vernacular competence became the classical fieldwork standard after his Trobriand research.

Multi-sited ethnography

George Marcus proposed following people, objects, metaphors and conflicts across connected locations rather than presuming one bounded community.

Writing Culture

Clifford and Marcus (1986) foregrounded the partial, constructed and power-laden nature of ethnographic representation.

Ongoing consent

Participants may renegotiate recording, quotation or withdrawal as relationships and risks change; one form cannot anticipate the whole field.

Digital caution

Public visibility is not equivalent to informed consent, especially when searchable quotation can identify a vulnerable user.

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