


ANTHROPOLOGY 1

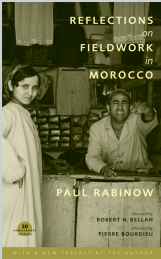
REFLECTIONS ON FIELDWORK IN MOROCCO

Paul Rabinow

- Student of Clifford Geertz
 - University of Chicago
- Currently Prof. of Anthropology
 - UC Berkeley
- Other major works:
 - 1995: *French Modern: Norms and Forms of the Social Environment*
 - 1997: *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology*
 - 2002: *French DNA: Trouble in Purgatory*
 - 2008: *Designs for Anthropology of the Contemporary*
 - w/ George Marcus, James Faubion, and Tobias Reese



Paul Rabinow



- The results of anthropological research are more than the objective data that we bring back from the field.
- Culture is interpretation.
- Fieldwork is a distinctive type of cultural activity. Ethnographic fieldwork is what defines anthropology.
- The 'facts' of anthropology are already themselves interpretations.

Paul Rabinow

- “The comprehension of the self through the detour of the comprehension of the other.”
- Notion of “self”: is culturally mediated and historically situated, and finds itself in a continuously changing world of meaning
- Phenomenological approach: “a cultural figure finds its meaning not in what precedes it but in what follows”





Chapter 1

- When did the fieldwork take place and where did it start out?
- How do you understand the term “dying colonialism”?
- Who is Richard? What is his primary language?
- What was Rabinow intent on studying? Did Richard have anything to do with that topic?

Chapter 2

- Who is Ibrahim?
- Discuss his role as a "middleman"
- How did Ibrahim's role with Rabinow demonstrate something more calculating than a friendship?

Chapter 3

- Who is Ali? Why is he an "Insider's Outsider"?
- In what encounter did Rabinow defy the general understanding that "the informant is always right"?
- When and how were personal inhibitions and social conventions left behind?

Chapter 4

- What causes Rabinow anxiety and why?
- What is Sidi Lahcen Lyussi?
- Why is Ali marginalized?
- What official connections did Rabinow have to conduct his fieldwork?
- What conflict accompanied Rabinow's initial entry into the community?
- Who was Rashid? Why did Paul need to choose between working with Rashid and other community members?

Chapter 5

- Who is Malik? What information did the study of genealogies provide?
- How was Rabinow's car and his role as driver exploited?
- How does Rabinow compare poverty in US and poverty in Morocco?
- How did Malik's listing of possessions change his perspective on his own poverty?
- How was Sidi Lahcen's economic conditions explained by historical circumstances?

Chapter 6

- How did Rabinow use Ali's "version of things" to motivate others to speak?

Chapter 7

- Did the community members know much about their community saint?
 - Religion was something Rabinow went to study.
- Do you think that Rabinow's presence and research project made community members more self-conscious?

Chapter 8

- Who was ben Mohammed? Was he or was he not a key informant?
- How did conversations with Ben Mohammad strengthen Rabinow' s sense of being American?

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