

Eras of Feminist Anthropology and Ethnography
Anthropology 2240

Era and Dates	Intellectual Focus	Historical Context	Key Players and Scholars
0: Mid-1800s (Ancestors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural evolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonialism and observations of 'others' • Biological evolution (Darwin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Maine • Johannes Bachofen • Karl Marx • Friedrich Engels
1: 1880-1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural evolution • Biological sex determines social roles • Gender and sex are synonymous • Gender emerges as an anthropological category of analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian ideas about the superiority of 'western' values and customs 	Boasians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boas • Parsons
2: 1920-1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of sex and gender as categories • Promotion of a 'woman's point of view' in ethnography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War II • Reactions to Eugenics and perceived racial superiority of Europeans 	Boasians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mead • Benedict • Hurston
3: 1960-1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universals of sexual oppression • Universal sexual asymmetry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil rights movement in United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamphere • Rosaldo • Ortner
4: 1980-1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women may be subordinate everywhere but women's experiences are not universally the same • Does a distinction between sex and gender actually make sense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing political era – to right-wing • interest in women's rights, childcare, reproductive rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abu-Lughod • Behar and Gordon (Women Writing Culture)

Selected Bibliography

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