

Prof. Rego

Putting texts in Conversation - Herskovits and Clifford

For this assignment, I would like you to bring in James Clifford into the conversation you started with Melville Herskovits's in the previous assignment. That is, I'd like you to enter an intertextual conversation that includes Clifford's *Traveling Cultures* and Herskovits's *Cultural Relativism*. In preparation for this, think about ways in which one author's argument may add to, complicate, or otherwise intersect with the ideas of the other author. How does your reading of *Traveling Cultures* change (or not) your understanding of the concepts introduced in Herskovits's text (and vice-versa)? If it were possible for these two authors to sit around the same table, what do you imagine would be a topic of conversation? What would they be saying to each other? Remember, there is only so much you can effectively explicate in a 2- to 3-page paper, so don't try to cover everything. Focus on a narrow enough point or idea that you can explore in a meaningful way. For example, you could write about how the idea of "cultural relativism" might become more (or less) problematic if Herskovits' idea of "culture" were to be substituted by Clifford's. Or you could explore the relationship between the anthropologist and the "native" as viewed from the perspective of each of the authors. The possibilities are many - write about something that interests or intrigues you.

Again, as you start to think about how the authors' ideas intersect, you may find yourself wanting to forward or counter one or more of these ideas. Feel free to do so, as long as you have clearly established for your reader the "problem" or the "intersection" you wish to explore.

An effective essay will

- 1) use both Herskovits and Clifford to articulate a question or "problem"
- 2) judiciously paraphrase or effectively frame quotes from the sources

DUE MONDAY, SEPT 15 BY NOON.

Volunteers wanted for workshop!

Have fun!!