Translating Psychological Anthropology Beyond the Academy:
A Bibliography

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This bibliography accompanies the workshop, “Reaching Out: Translating Our Research Beyond the Academy,” led by Daniel Lende, Tanya Luhrmann, and Emily Mendenhall at the 2021 SPA Biennial Meeting. The goal of the workshop was to equip psychological anthropologists to share their research with non-academic audiences. This bibliography presents an overview of public anthropology, provides suggestions for translating anthropological research, and includes examples of works by psychological anthropologists for non-academic audiences.

Part 1: Public Anthropology - What Is It?

Public anthropology is a form of anthropological expression (as opposed to a field of anthropology) that aims to translate complex ideas into widely intelligible language (Griffith et al. 2013; Haugerud 2016). It engages social issues of interest to non-academic audiences through accessible publication formats, including blogs, websites, podcasts, videos, op-eds, art, storified tweets, and more. The readings in this section present an overview of public anthropology—its definition, stakes, and breadth—as well as delineate public anthropology’s relationship to applied, engaged, and practicing anthropology.


Part 2: How to Translate Anthropological Research (Emphasis on Psychological Anthropology)

This section examines the “how” of translating anthropological research beyond the academy. How do anthropologists effectively communicate the value of their work? How can anthropologists bring together content, methods, and approaches that speak across disciplines and engage non-academic audiences? How can anthropologists translate research into policy and practice? The section also considers the challenges of translating anthropological research.


Weisner, Thomas S. “‘If you Work in This Country You Should Not be Poor, and Your Kids Should be Doing Better’: Bringing Mixed Methods and Theory in Psychological
Part 3: Examples of Works by Psychological Anthropologists for Public Audiences

This section provides examples of works that translate psychological anthropology beyond the academy. These include ethnographic monographs, books, op-eds, blogs, and podcasts on psychological anthropology topics, such as personality, mental health, human development, religion, and addiction.


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