

Anthropology's Ancestors

As anthropology developed across geographical, historical and social boundaries, it was always influenced by the work of exceptional scholars – both male and female, and of different ethnic backgrounds – who pushed research topics in new and original directions and whom we now regard as important ancestors of our discipline. The term “ancestors” refers both to scholars whose work shaped the ideas that later became essential for anthropology, beginning in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, and to anthropologists who contributed to new directions within various fields of research during the 19th and 20th centuries. Therefore, **Anthropology's Ancestors**, a new series, will deal with the Precursors, for instance Montaigne, Vico, Herder; the Founders, including Boas, Mauss, Malinowski, Sapir, Benedict; major anthropologists such as Tylor, Haddon, Rivers, Parsons, Mead, Bateson, Marilyn Strathern; and, finally, other important scholars who influenced the development of anthropology, among them Jane E. Harrison, Nimuendajú, Margaret A. Murray. The aim of this series is to present small-format books that offer introductions to the major figures in anthropology, whose works constitute landmarks and are *de rigueur* for students of anthropology but also of interest for scholars in the humanities and social sciences more generally. In doing so, it offers important insights into the basic questions and dilemmas facing humanity.

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