

Clifford Geertz

Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, People, Mean, Done, Feminist, Men, Literature, Fields,
Research, Humanity, Anthropology, Culture, Book, Animal, Want, Facts,
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I'm an inveterate fox and not a hedgehog, so I always think you should try everything

~Clifford Geertz

Has feminism made us all more conscious? I think it has. Feminist critiques of anthropological masculine bias have been quite important, and they have increased my sensitivity to that kind of issue

~Clifford Geertz

One of the most significant facts about humanity may finally be that we all begin with the natural equipment to live a thousand kinds of life but end in the end having lived only one

~Clifford Geertz

We don't know what we think until we see what we say.

~Clifford Geertz

Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun.

~Clifford Geertz

Culture is public, because meaning is

~Clifford Geertz

Most anthropologists are doing straightforward ethnography, and should

~Clifford Geertz

Meaning is socially, historically, and rhetorically constructed.

~Clifford Geertz

Cultural analysis is intrinsically incomplete. And, worse than that, the more deeply it goes the less complete it is.

~Clifford Geertz

My instincts are always against people who want to fasten some sort of hegemony onto things

~Clifford Geertz

Anthropology never has had a distinct subject matter, and because it doesn't have a real method, there's a great deal of anxiety over what it is

~Clifford Geertz

Younger anthropologists have the notion that anthropology is too diverse. The number of things done under the name of anthropology is just infinite; you can do anything and call it anthropology

~Clifford Geertz

I think what's known about neurology is still scattered and uncertain

~Clifford Geertz

I agree with Chomsky in almost nothing. When it comes to innate structures and so on, I'm very skeptical

~Clifford Geertz

Gender consciousness has become involved in almost every intellectual field: history, literature, science, anthropology. There's been an extraordinary advance

~Clifford Geertz

I think of myself as a writer who happens to be doing his writing as an anthropologist

~Clifford Geertz

People keep asking how anthropology is different from sociology, and everybody gets nervous.

~Clifford Geertz

Anthropology in general has always been fairly hospitable to female scholars, and even to feminist scholars

~Clifford Geertz

I think feminism has had a major impact on anthropology

~Clifford Geertz

I had a hard time convincing students that they were going to North Africa to understand the North Africans, not to understand themselves.

~Clifford Geertz

It may be in the cultural particularities of people — in their oddities — that some of the most instructive revelations of what it is to be generically human are to be found.

~Clifford Geertz

If there's ever a place where you can't argue that you can put the facts over here and the text over there and see if they fit, it is surely in anthropology

~Clifford Geertz

I think the perception of there being a deep gulf between science and the humanities is false

~Clifford Geertz

A scholar can hardly be better employed than in destroying a fear.

~Clifford Geertz

I have a social philosophy; you have political opinions; he has an ideology.

~Clifford Geertz

I've often been accused of making anthropology into literature, but anthropology is also field research. Writing is central to it.

~Clifford Geertz

If we wanted home truths, we should have stayed at home.

~Clifford Geertz

I do think the attempt to raise consciousness has succeeded. People are very aware of gender concerns now

~Clifford Geertz

The point of literary criticism in anthropology is not to replace research, but to find out how it is that we are persuasive.

~Clifford Geertz

I don't have the notion that everybody has to write in some single academic style

~Clifford Geertz

The North African mule talks always of his mother's brother, the horse, but never of his father, the donkey, in favor of others supposedly more reputable.

~Clifford Geertz

I don't feel that an atmosphere of debate and total disagreement and argument is such a bad thing. It makes for a vital and alive field.

~Clifford Geertz

I'm writing a review of three books on feminism and science, and it's about social constructionism. So I would say I'm a social constructionist, whatever that means

~Clifford Geertz

I don't think things are moving toward an omega point; I think they're moving toward more diversity

~Clifford Geertz

I never leave a sentence or a paragraph until I'm satisfied with it

~Clifford Geertz

I don't write drafts. I write from the beginning to the end, and when it's finished, it's done

~Clifford Geertz

What we call our data are really our own constructions of other people's constructions of what they and their compatriots are up to.

~Clifford Geertz

I think the American university system still seems to be the best system in the world

~Clifford Geertz

I've written a lot of books which are written from the moon - the view from nowhere.

~Clifford Geertz

I was trained in the '50s as a New Critic. I remember what literature was like before the New Critics, when people stood up and talked about Shelley's soul and such things

~Clifford Geertz

If I remember correctly, a writer is someone who wants to convey information. Language or writing is a code

~Clifford Geertz

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