

Review of: "Social-Cultural Anthropology in the Oldest Department of Anthropology in India: Writing History or the Suppression of Records?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In response to Guha's critique of Partha Chatterjee's lecture, I would like to offer constructive feedback by highlighting the areas where Chatterjee's article falls short and suggesting practical solutions to improve social anthropology, considering technological advancements.

Abhijit Guha's critique of Partha Chatterjee's lecture, 'Science or Cultural Interpretation: Anthropology at the University of Calcutta, 1920-1970' provides valuable insights. Guha points out that while Chatterjee's article is a good starting point, it does not provide a comprehensive overview and cannot be considered a reliable reference. From an ethical perspective, Chatterjee's published abstract serves as a valuable basis for further research. Guha also highlights the importance of acknowledging the contributions of Indian anthropologists and suggests that further studies could build on their pioneering work. Overall, Guha's critique encourages the pursuit of a more complete and accurate understanding of the topic.

However, Chatterjee did highlight the gaps in social anthropology and the plight of aspiring anthropology students who often seek opportunities at top international higher education institutions to ensure they receive the best education possible and become leading anthropologists. However, many higher education institutions prioritize subjects that offer quick returns, neglecting anthropological processes' role in students' learning journey. Therefore, it is imperative to question whether the Indian government or the University of Calcutta would support students and provide them with training in the country's context to increase interest in social-cultural anthropology locally.

It reminds us of the need to give due importance to social-cultural anthropology in academia to ensure that students receive comprehensive training. By doing so, we can equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in their respective fields and contribute meaningfully to society.

Without a doubt, anthropology is an incredibly valuable and significant field of research that should never be overlooked. Regardless of Guha's views on Chatterjee's article, anthropology offers a unique and exceptional perspective on the world and the people we share it with. Anthropologists possess a set of skills that are not only intellectually stimulating but also highly in demand across various research fields. As such, it is a field that should be highly valued and never underestimated.

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