



Celebrating LSE's 120th Anniversary in the Department of Anthropology

On Friday, 11 December 2015, as part of the celebrations for the LSE's 120th anniversary, the Department of Anthropology held a one-day event to explore some of its history. In the 1930s, Malinowski, together with his younger colleagues and research students, who mostly worked in Africa, established the LSE department as the home of the new, fieldwork-based, functionalist social anthropology that would become dominant in Britain in the following years. Although several historians of British anthropology have described Malinowski's achievements and their importance, most practising anthropologists have only a rough idea about them and, perhaps especially in LSE, Malinowski is often little more than a legendary name. Through a series of short talks and exhibits, designed to inform and entertain both anthropologists and others interested in the LSE's history, this event explored the department between the early 1930s and the 1950s, looking at some topics that have been thoroughly investigated by historians, as well as others that have not.

A recording of the talks is available by clicking on the individual hyperlinks. A special thank is due to Michael Young who sent us a preview of one of the chapters of the second volume of his biography of Malinowski.

[Michael Young](#)'s abridged new chapter on Malinowski at the LSE (read by **Catherine Allerton** in his absence)

[Adam Kuper's](#) commentary

[Michael Cox](#) on the place of Anthropology in the LSE, c. 1930-1950

[Sherry Ortner](#) on Hortense Powdermaker, LSE PhD 1928 [a written version of this talk is now available on AOTC: <http://aotcpres.com/articles/powdermaker/>]

[Jean La Fontaine](#) on Audrey Richards, LSE PhD 1930

[Chris Fuller](#) on Anthropology and the LSE's links with India and China

[Stephan Feuchtwang](#) on Fei Hsiao-t'ung, China, LSE PhD 1938

[Filippo Osella](#) on A. Aiyappan, India, LSE PhD 1937

[David Mills](#) on what happens after Malinowski leaves the LSE

[Adrian Mayer](#), LSE PhD 1953 on being a PhD student at the LSE + the seminar

[Maurice Bloch](#) on the Department in more recent times

[Hans Steinmuller's](#) response and reflections

[Laura Bear's](#) response and reflections