¶ 6.1

Constructing Identities & Inequalities

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Class

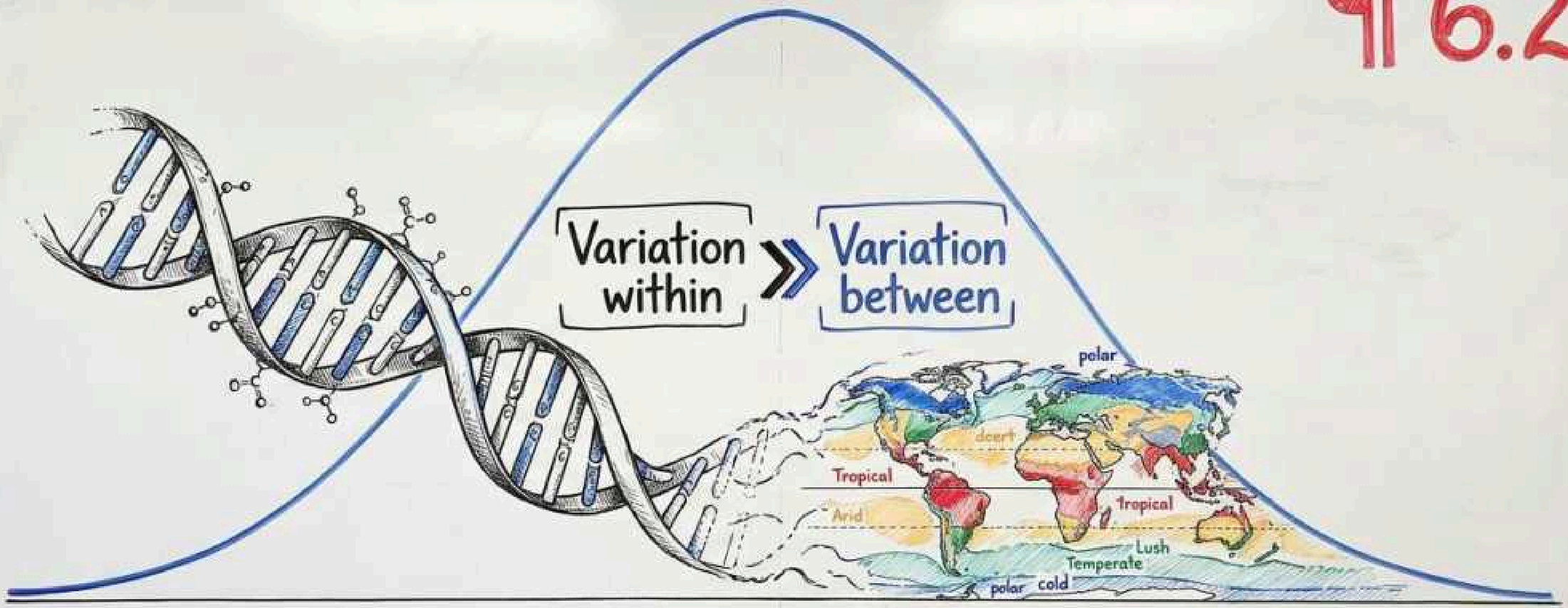


A Changing World

- Colonialism
- Globalization
- Migration
- Applied Ethics

Gemini Notebook

¶6.2



Biologists & Anthropologists Agree: Genetic variation is gradual.
Skin colour tracks climate, not deep biological boundaries.

Gemini Notebook

¶6.3

Ancestry + Appearance



SYSTEM
(Social Invention)

Status & Rights

Slavery, Segregation, Genocide

American Anthropological Association (1998):
Race is a social invention used to justify inequality, not a biological reality.

Gemini Notebook

¶6.4

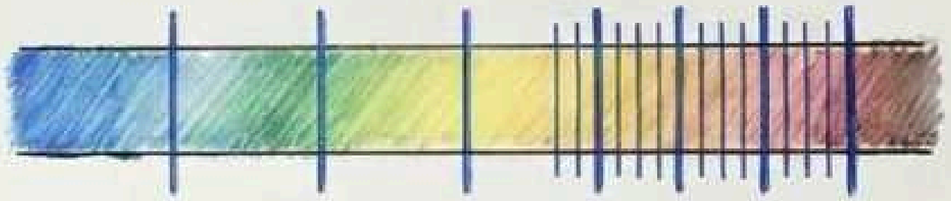
United States



Historical Rule-Based

One-drop rule treats anyone with known African ancestry as Black.

Brazil



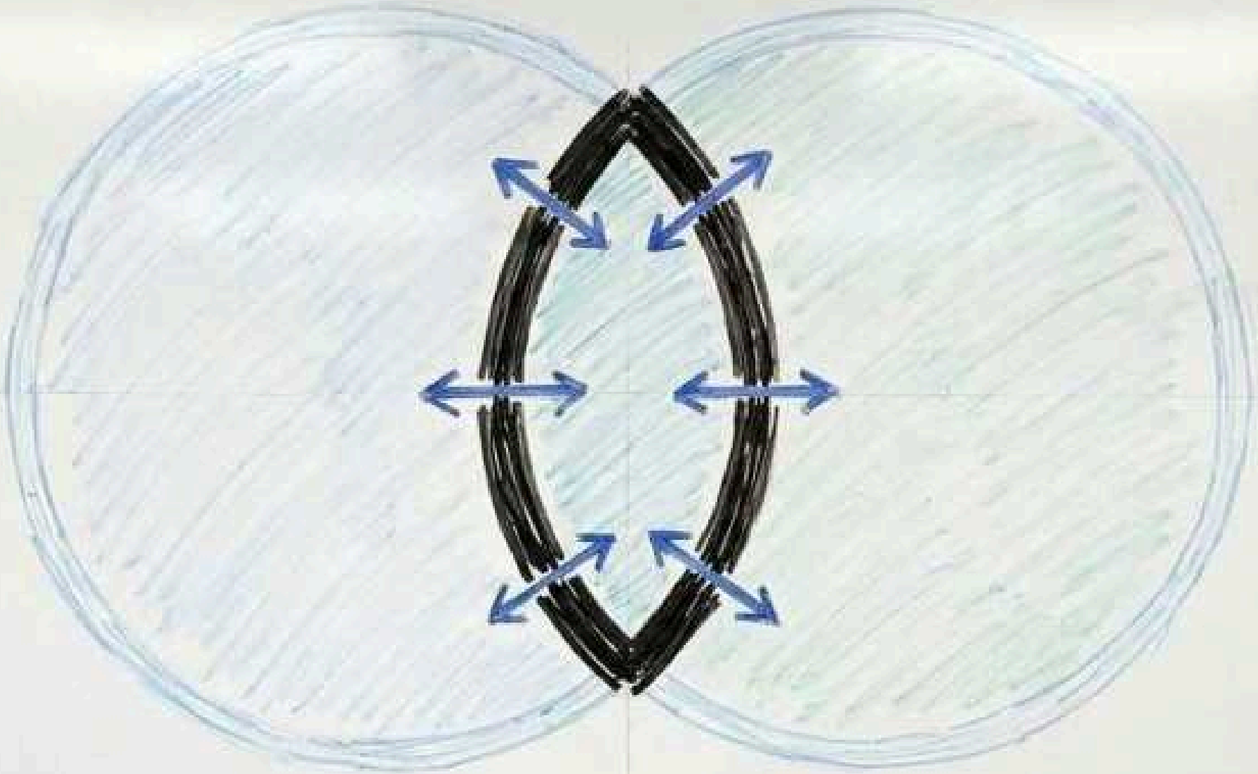
Appearance Continuum

Multiple terms along a visual spectrum.

Conclusion: Racial categories are constructed by history and law, not nature.

Gemini Notebook

¶6.5



Fredrik Barth (1969): Ethnicity is the boundary.

Identity is an action—something people claim and do, defined by contrast.

Gemini Notebook

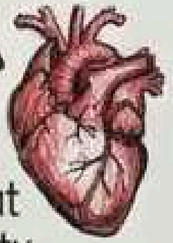
¶ 6.6



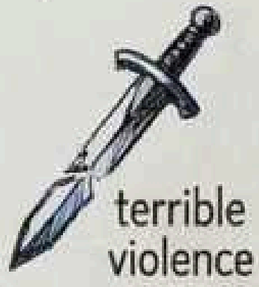
Shared Media + Symbols = Imagined Community

Benedict Anderson (1983)

Imagined ≠ False



great loyalty



terrible violence

Gemini Notebook

¶ 6.7

$$\text{Sex} = \text{Biological Differences}$$

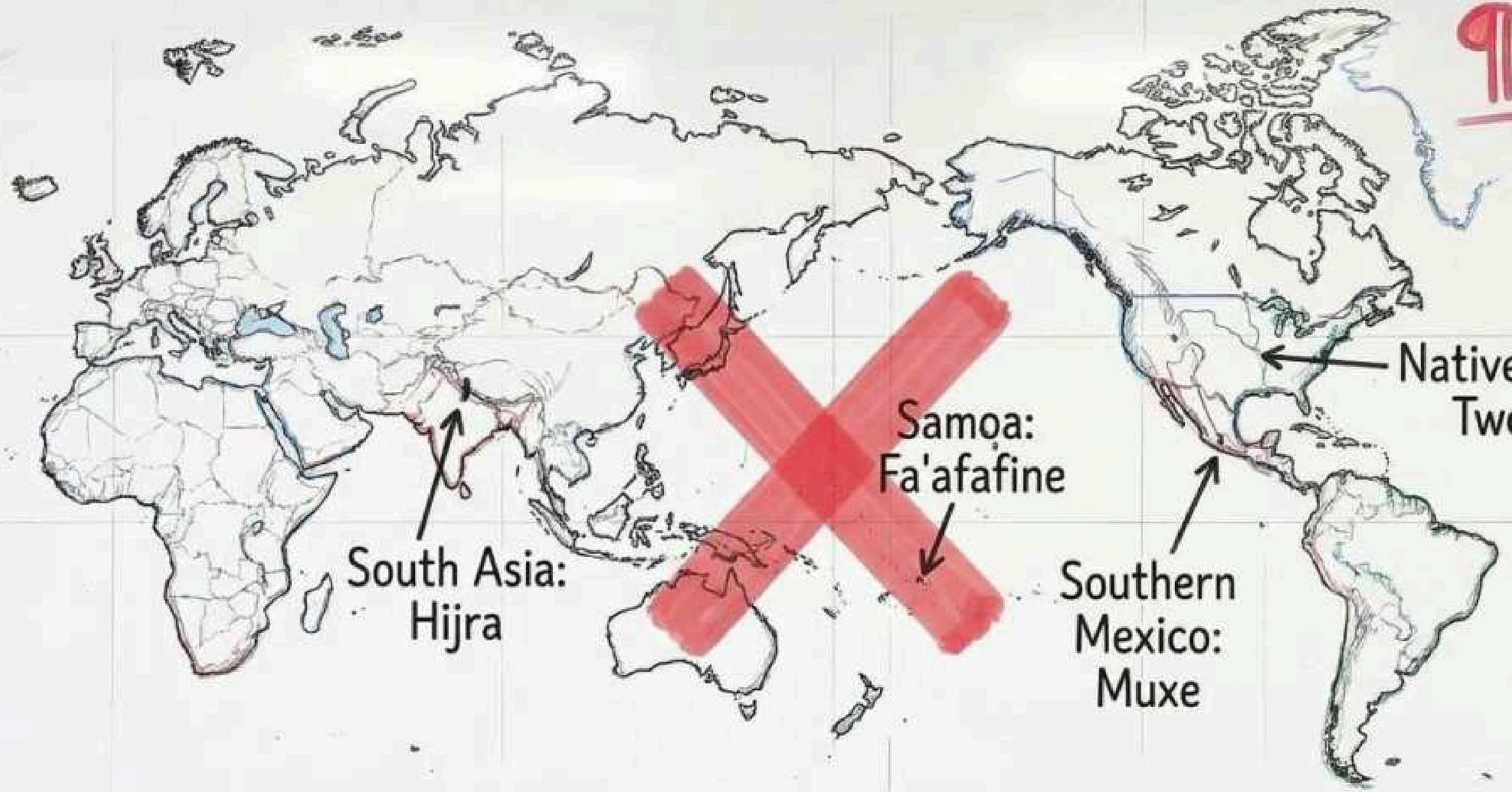
$$\text{Gender} = \sum (\text{Roles} + \text{Expectations} + \text{Identities})$$



Mead's Studies (1920s/30s): Temperament is shaped by culture.

(Note: Work on Samoa was later challenged by Derek Freeman; the debate continues).

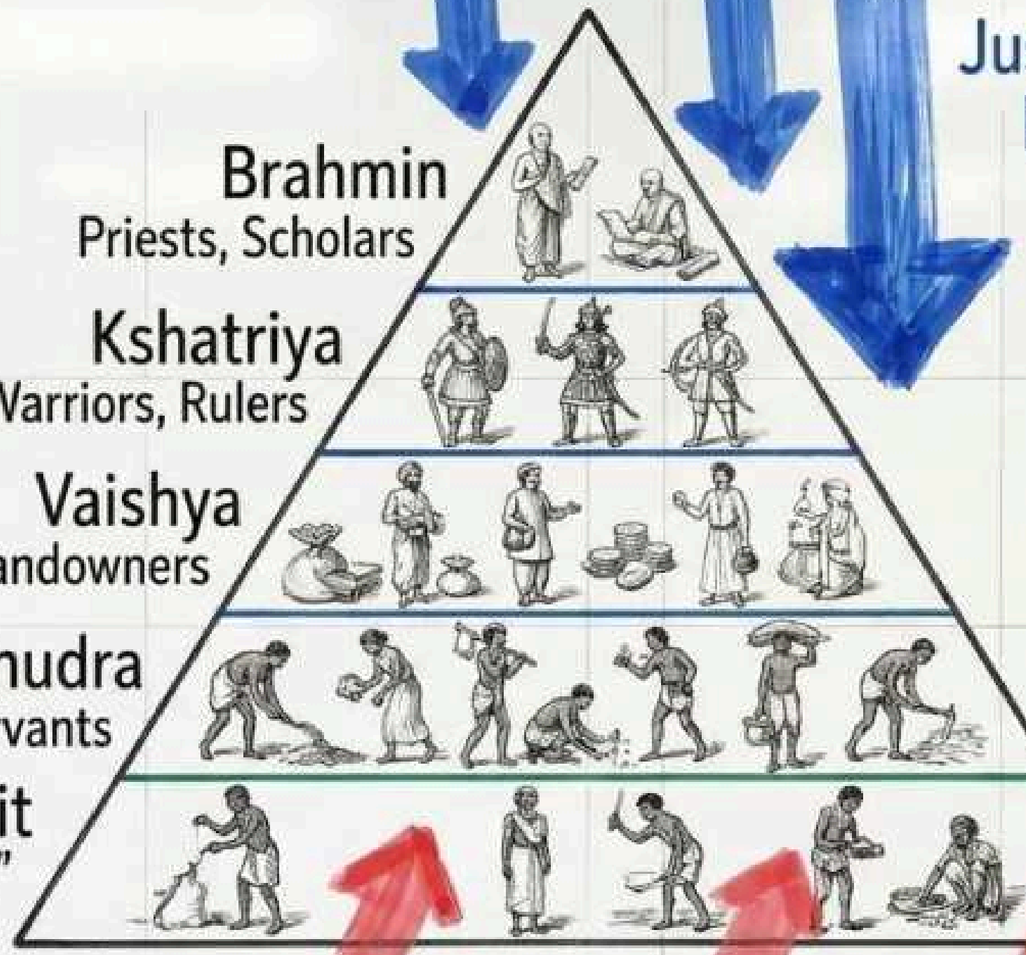
¶6.8



Colonial laws frequently suppressed these recognized local realities.
Local meanings do not cleanly map to Western categories.

Gemini Notebook

¶6.9



Justification / Prejudice

Rank = Birth × Purity

Resistance / Constitutional Law (1950)

Anthropologists study how inequality is justified, why people accept it, resist it, or find ways to survive it.

9/6.10

Early Fieldwork
(reliant on officials)

Colonial Empire



Talal Asad (1973): Anthropology & the Colonial Encounter
Edward Said (1978): Orientalism (Critique of Western images of the East)

Gemini Notebook

¶6.11

Extraction

Researcher

↓

Community

Partnership

Researcher ⇄ Community

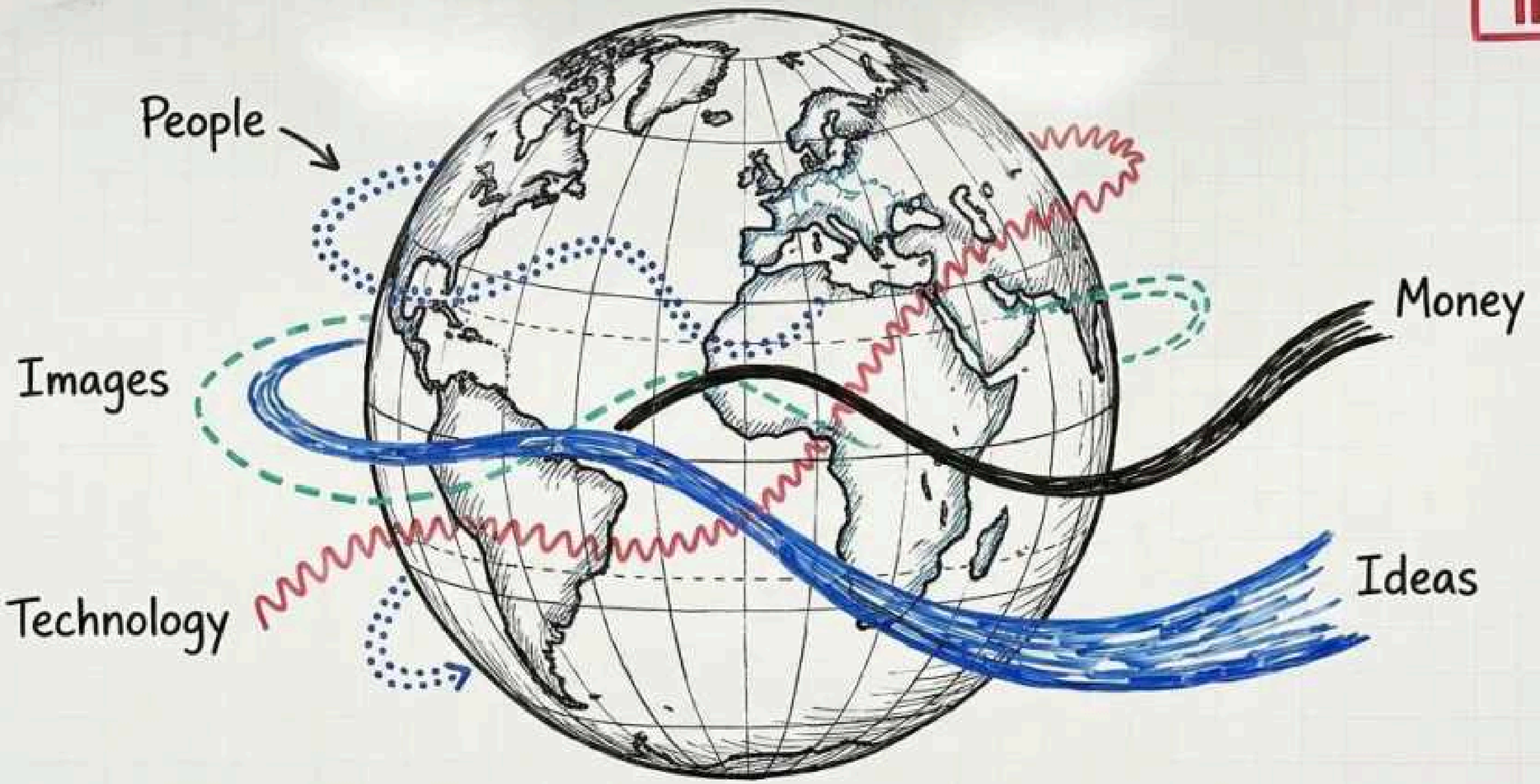


Vine Deloria Jr. (1969, *Custer Died for Your Sins*): Challenged anthropologists to listen, not just study.

- [x] Partner
- [x] Share results
- [x] Train local scholars

Gemini Notebook

¶ 6.12

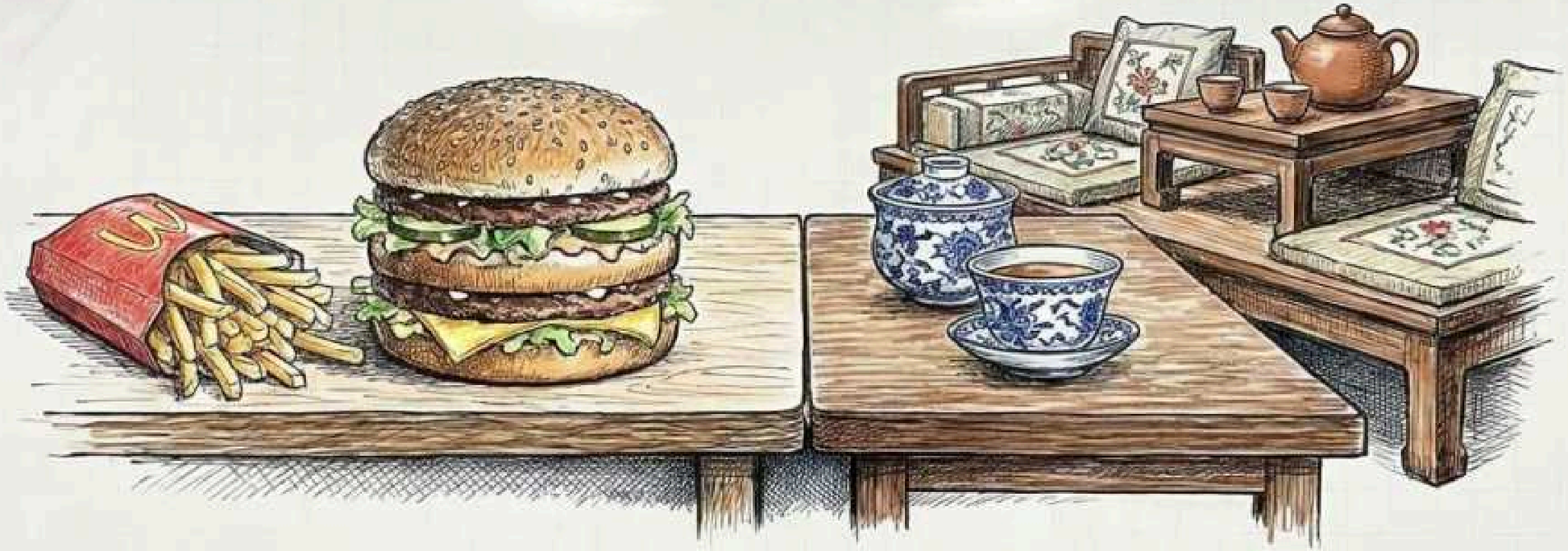


Culture no longer sits tidily in one location. Lives are multi-local via remittances, calls, and online communities.

Gemini Notebook

¶ 6.13

Global Product + Local Agency → Hybrid Form

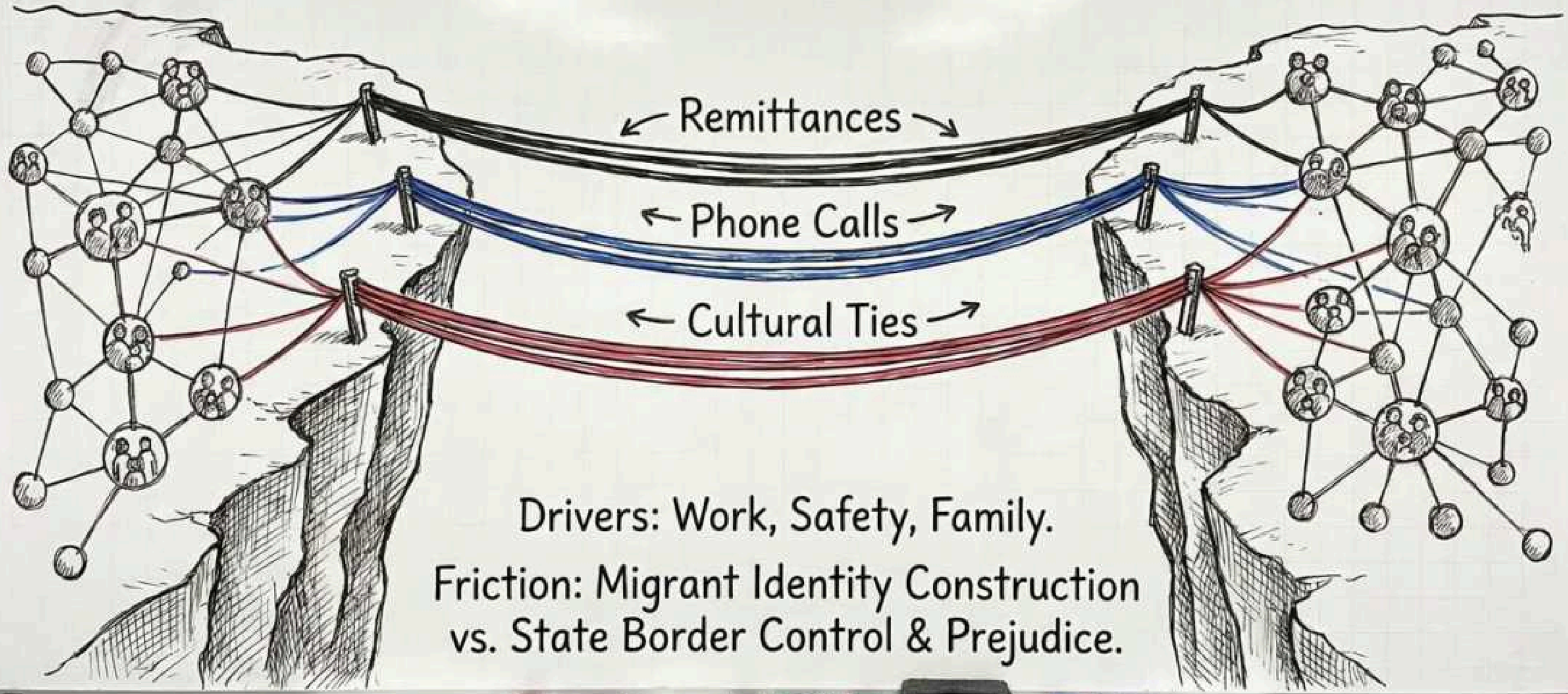


James Watson's East Asia study: Local people adapt global restaurants into their own meeting places.

Does globalization make everyone the same? NO.

Gemini Notebook

¶ 6.14



Drivers: Work, Safety, Family.

Friction: Migrant Identity Construction vs. State Border Control & Prejudice.

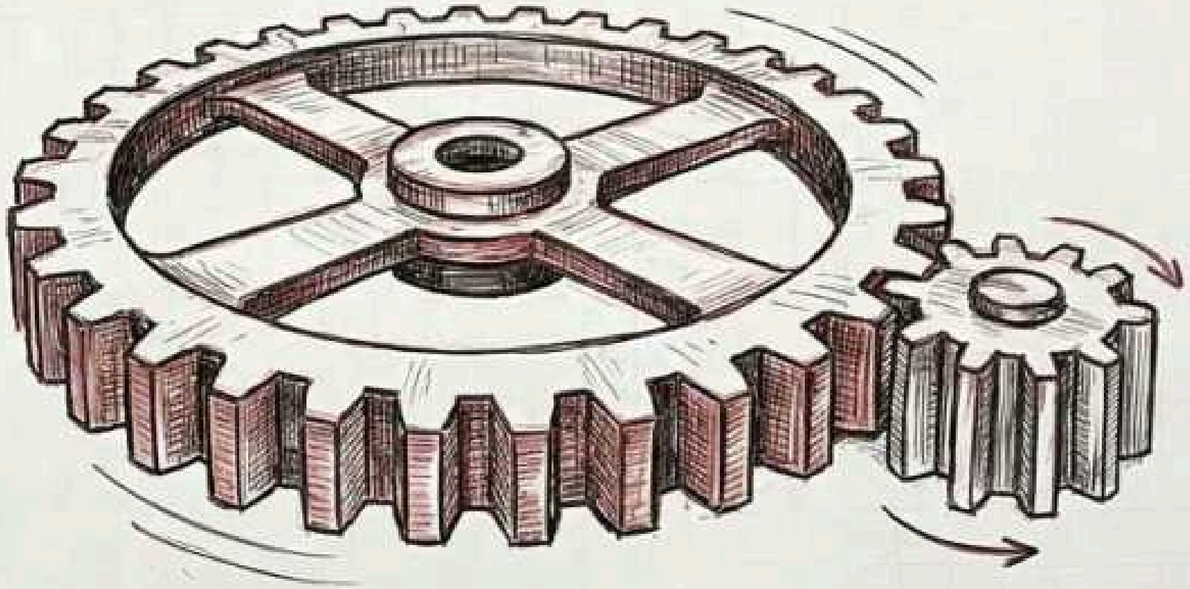
Gemini Notebook

¶ 6.15



Diffusion - Ideas and things spreading organically between societies.

Acculturation - Change from sustained, often unequal contact.





Communities work to protect heritage and decide which changes to welcome.

Gemini Notebook

¶ 6.16

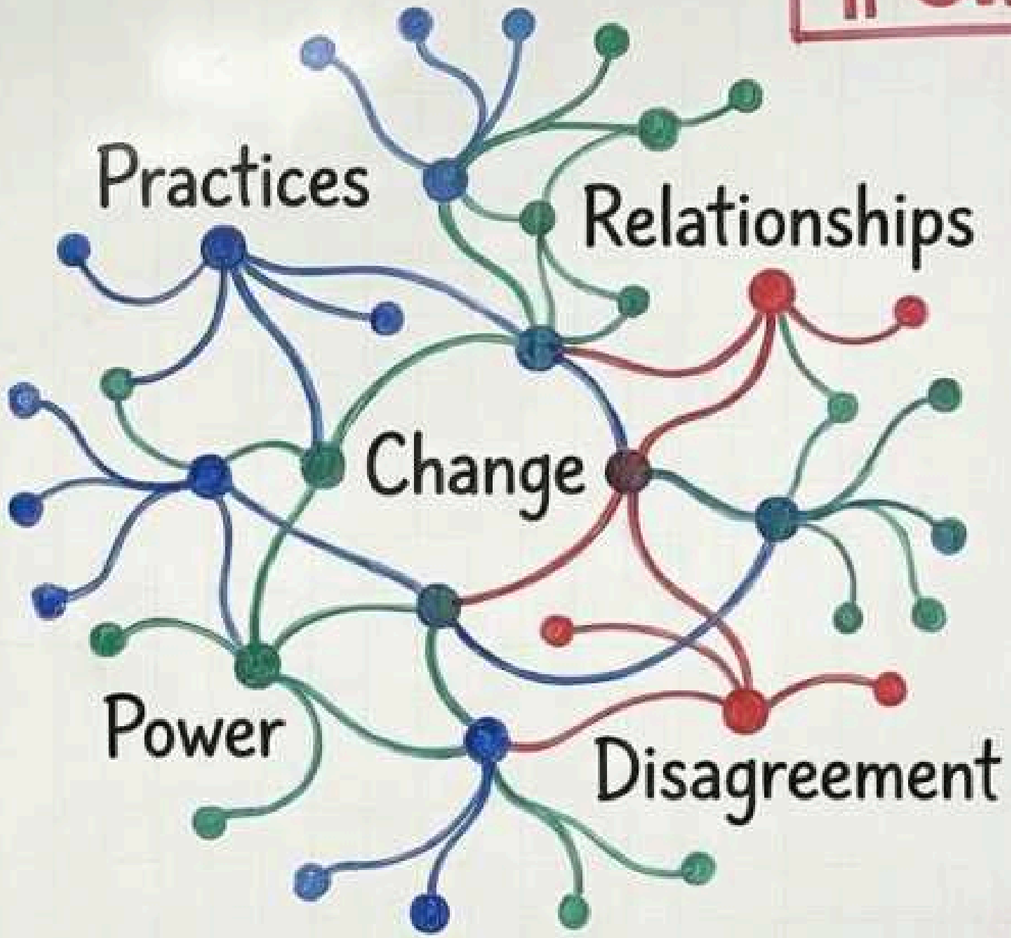


2014 West African Ebola Epidemic. → Traditional Customs + Anthropological Insight → Safer Funerals Respecting Mourners

Applied anthropology operates in health, education, business, and tech design. Understanding actual lived realities prevents costly, sometimes fatal, mistakes.

¶ 6.17



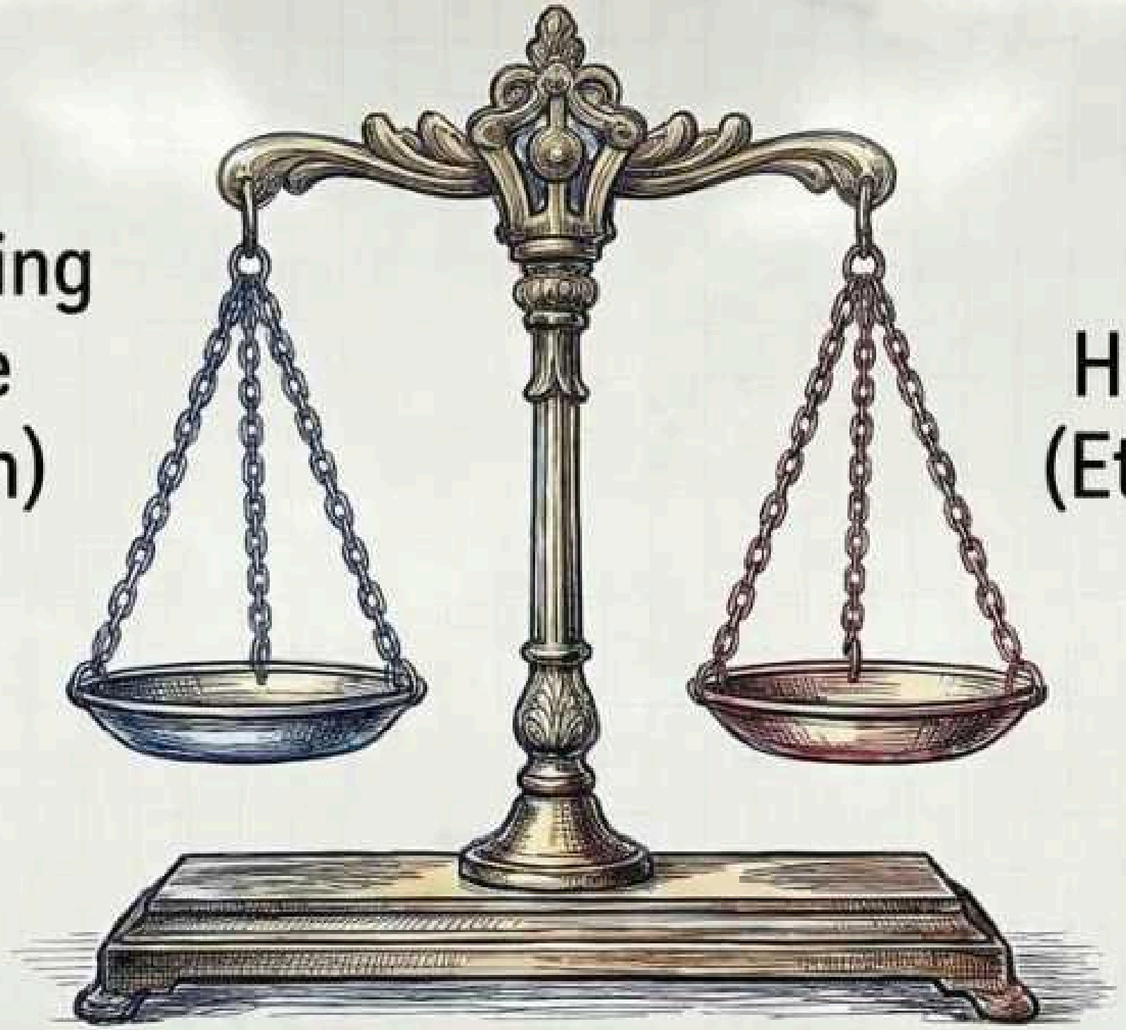


Lila Abu-Lughod (1991): Write against culture. The term makes people seem overly fixed, overly different, and hides internal power struggles.

Gemini Notebook

¶6.18

Understanding a Practice (Relativism)



Defending Human Rights (Ethics & Harm)

Who speaks for a culture? Who is harmed?
Understanding comes first, but does not mandate acceptance.

AI Disclaimer:
Because this course utilizes AI, verify key facts against reliable texts & ask tutors for sources.

Gemini Notebook

¶6.19

Other Ways ≠ Strange or Lesser

Your Way = 1 of Many

Questions/Feedback: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com | X: @garyanderson | Anderson Academy

Gemini Notebook