Paul And Judaism: An Anthropological Approach

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The basic concept of anthropology is culture: learned behavior, socially transmitted. This includes extant cultures, traditional cultures, and prehistoric cultures. The other concept central to anthropology is its holistic approach to understanding culture. This essentially means that culture is an open system, internally structured, and dynamic through time. To understand culture as learned behavior, socially transmitted, one has to learn and understand the target language, and the elements in the society responsible for its transmission through time. Anthropologists have found that language,
Biological anthropology and physical anthropology are synonymous terms to describe anthropological research focused on the study of humans and non-human primates in their biological, evolutionary, and demographic dimensions. It examines the biological and social factors that have affected the evolution of humans and other primates, and that generate, maintain or change contemporary genetic and physiological variation.[34]. I have also used the approaches of cultural and linguistic anthropology to study Jewish prayer, institution building and education in a synagogue study that I, together with ethnomusicologist Mark Kligman, conducted in New York City. Drawing on this research, I have written about Jewish spirituality--the emotional, individualized experience of God--and its relationship to ongoing neoliberal processes of gentrification in a Manhattan neighborhood (2007). The first, conducted with Owen Gottlieb, is an ethnographic study of Occupy Judaism, the Jewish inflection of Occupy Wall Street.