Is there such a thing as a “common human condition”? What is the relationship between religion, science and mysticism? What is the role of family ties in traditional or modern societies? How does politics function in a society without leadership? Why are ethnicity and nationalism such central issues in our time?

Small places, Large Issues is a clear and accessible overview of social and cultural anthropology. Hylland Eriksen focuses on the central topics such as kinship, ethnicity, ritual and political systems, and offers a wealth of examples that demonstrate the enormous scope of anthropology and the importance of a comparative perspective. Ranging from the pacific islands to the Arctic north and from small villages to modern nation states, this concise introduction reveals the rich global variation in social life and culture. Eriksen emphasises the need to establish interrelations between action and social structure and between the study to incorporate the anthropology of complex modern societies, thus providing a key text for all students of social and cultural anthropology.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Thomas Hylland Eriksen is Professor of social anthropology at the University of Oslo and the author of numerous books on anthropological and cultural issues, including Small Places, Large Issues and Tyranny of the Moment, which have both enjoyed tremendous success in Norway and abroad.

From 1993 to 2001 he was affiliated with the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo. His research spans ethnic relations, nation building and cultural dynamism in multicultural societies and he has written several books on such subjects. He has carried out field work in Mauritius and Trinidad.
In the poststructuralist era, anthropology and history alike have turned to the use of personal life histories and (auto) biographies. They are used to write detailed ethnographies or social histories that shed light on the way large issues are articulated in small places (Hylland Eriksen 2001). Subaltern and feminist studies have demonstrated the relevance of foregrounding the lived experiences of individuals. Negotiating National Identity and Local Belonging in Contemporary Liberia. Social anthropology is the study of how humans give meaning to the world through different social norms, values, practices and means of organisation. This course provides an exciting and dynamic introduction to the world of social anthropology. This course provides an exciting and dynamic introduction to the world of social anthropology. In brief, social anthropology is the study of how humans give meaning to the world through different social norms, values, practices and means of organisation. As such, the role of the social anthropologist is to explore and understand other cultures and societies, and in so doing, to better understand his or her own worldview as well. Societies Interpreting Japanese Society: Anthropological Approaches (editor) An Anthropologist in Japan. An Introduction to Social Anthropology. 

- Introduction 1 A new encounter 1 What social anthropologists do 2 A history of social anthropology 7 The contemporary importance of social anthropology. 11. 1 Seeing the World 17 Souvenirs and handkerchiefs 17 Learning to classify 19 Life, death and burial alive 21 Cultural relativism and the anthropologists’ bias 23 Changes in systems of classification: the issue of gender 29. 2 Disgusting, Forbidden and Unthinkable 34 Some areas of observation 34 Taboo 35 Pollution 39 Purity and classification 40 Animal categories and verbal abuse 43. This concise introduction to social and cultural anthropology has become a modern classic, revealing the rich global variation in social life and culture. The text provides a clear overview of anthropology, focusing on central topics such as kinship, ethnicity, ritual and political systems, offering a wealth of examples that demonstrate the enormous scope of anthropology and the importance of a comparative perspective. Unlike other texts on the subject, Small Places, Large Issues incorporates the anthropology of complex modern societies. Using reviews of key monographs to illustrate his argu...
This introduction to social and cultural anthropology has become a modern classic, revealing the rich global variation in social life and culture across the world. Presenting a clear overview of anthropology, it focuses on central topics such as kinship, ethnicity, ritual and political systems, offering a wealth of examples that demonstrate the enormous scope of anthropology and the importance of a comparative perspective. Unlike other texts on the subject, Small Places, Large Issues incorporates the anthropology of complex modern societies. This concise introduction to social and cultural anthropology has become a modern classic, introducing countless students to the field and the tools it offers for exploring some of the most complicated questions of human life and interaction. This fourth edition is fully updated, incorporating recent debates and controversies in the field, ranging from globalization and migration research to problems of cultural translation and the challenges of interdisciplinarity. Effortlessly bridging the gap between classic and contemporary anthropology, Small Places, Large Issues remains an essential text.
Small Places, Large Issues shows us Thomas Hylland Eriksen in his admirable triple capacity as an anthropologist: the scholar, with depth and breadth of knowledge, and with a critical sense; the statesman, negotiating with fairness between anthropological camps; and the journalist, with a sense of what is new, zooming between close-up and Big Picture, and writing clearly about it all. (Ulf Hannerz). This wonderfully lucid introduction to social and cultural anthropology readily captures students’ attention. By delineating the past and present development of the discipline, Eriksen underscores Read Small Places, Large Issues by Thomas Hylland Eriksen with a free trial. Read unlimited* books and audiobooks on the web, iPad, iPhone and Android. This introduction to social and cultural anthropology has become a modern classic, revealing the rich global variation in social life and culture across the world. Presenting a clear overview of anthropology, it focuses on central topics such as kinship, ethnicity, ritual and political systems, offering a wealth of examples that demonstrate the enormous scope of anthropology and the importance of a comparative perspective. Unlike other texts on the subject, Small Places, Large Issues incorporates the anthropology of complex modern societies. Some of these people were actually quite impressive. The general development of this book, both at the theoretical and at the empirical level, moves from simple to increasingly complex models and sociocultural environments from the social person to the global information society. This book introduces both the subject-matter of social anthropology and an anthropological way of thinking. It is my conviction that the comparative study of society and culture is a fundamental intellectual activity with important implications for other forms of engagement with the world.