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Bioanthropology: A Transdisciplinary Project of Gregory Bateson

ABSTRACT

The dissertation thesis deals with the work of Anglo-American anthropologist and cybernetician Gregory Bateson. It follows Danish biologist Jesper Hoffmeyer in seeing it as an example of a bioanthropological approach, the approach being defined as a position that sees mind as a particular example of nature that is in a deep sense itself minded. Besides the necessary biographical section the thesis consists of two major parts. The first one consists in exposition of Bateson’s anthropological and psychiatric concepts, the second one represents an evaluation and interpretation of Bateson’s final synthesis at the highest level of abstraction: the notion of equivalence of biological and epistemological realms of explanation. The major aim of the thesis is to present Bateson’s work as a way of integration of humanities and social sciences with biological science that represents an alternative to sociobiological and other neo-darwinian approaches.

KEY WORDS: Bateson, bioanthropology, evolution, mind