

*Day 2 -*

# Theories in Anthropology?

*“I don’t believe in isms, I just  
believe in me.”*  
- *Ferris Bueller*

# Objectives

- ▶ **Look at the dominant “theories” in studying Anthropology**
- ▶ **Compare and contrast these “isms”**
- ▶ **Decide which WE most agree with**
- ▶ **Terms:**
  - ▶ **Theory**
  - ▶ **Holism**
  - ▶ **Unilinealism**
  - ▶ **Diffusionism**
  - ▶ **Functionalism**
  - ▶ **Ethnocentrism**
  - ▶ **Cultural Relativism**

# Remind Me...

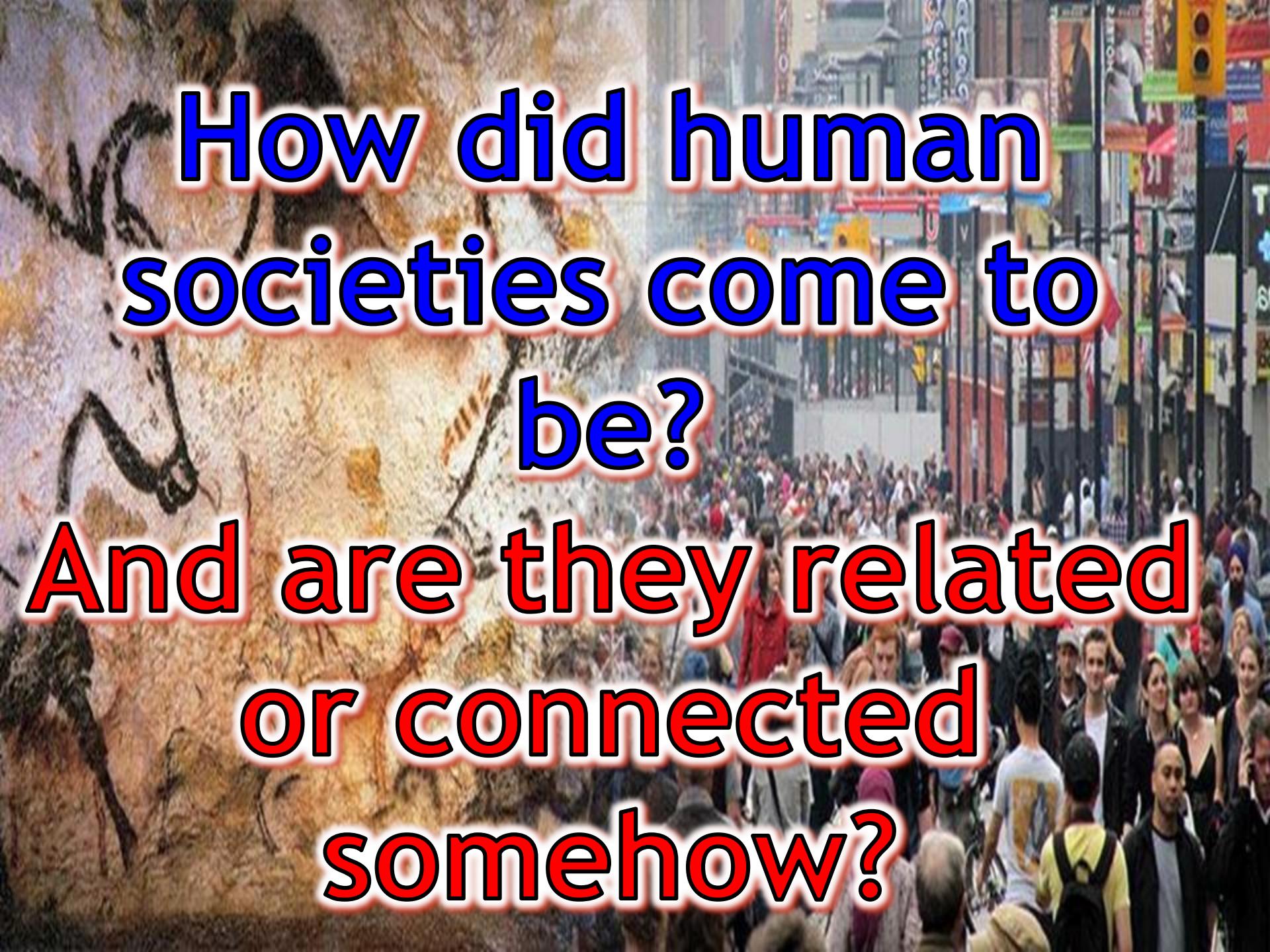
- ▶ What is Anthropology?
- ▶ How is that different from Sociology?
- ▶ What exactly are society and culture?
- ▶ What do artifacts have to do with anything, and why do they matter?
- ▶ *Today we look at different theories of how to study anthropology, and also how human “societies” evolved...*

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# But First...

- ▶ **What IS a theory?**
- ▶ **An established explanation**
- ▶ ***Not the same as hypothesis***
- ▶ **A theory has used the scientific method, been accepted by others, and NOT DISPROVEN**
- ▶ ***That DOESN'T mean PROVEN***
- ▶ ***Why does that matter in Anthropology?***
- ▶ ***Can we truly PROVE some of these things without time-travel?***



How did human  
societies come to  
be?

And are they related  
or connected  
somehow?

# Hole In One

## ► Holism

- Using a “whole” approach
- All aspects of humans relate to one another
- *So Lance Keller making a buddy pass in Lacrosse is connected to an Ancient native hunting buffalo?*
- *...Maybe...*



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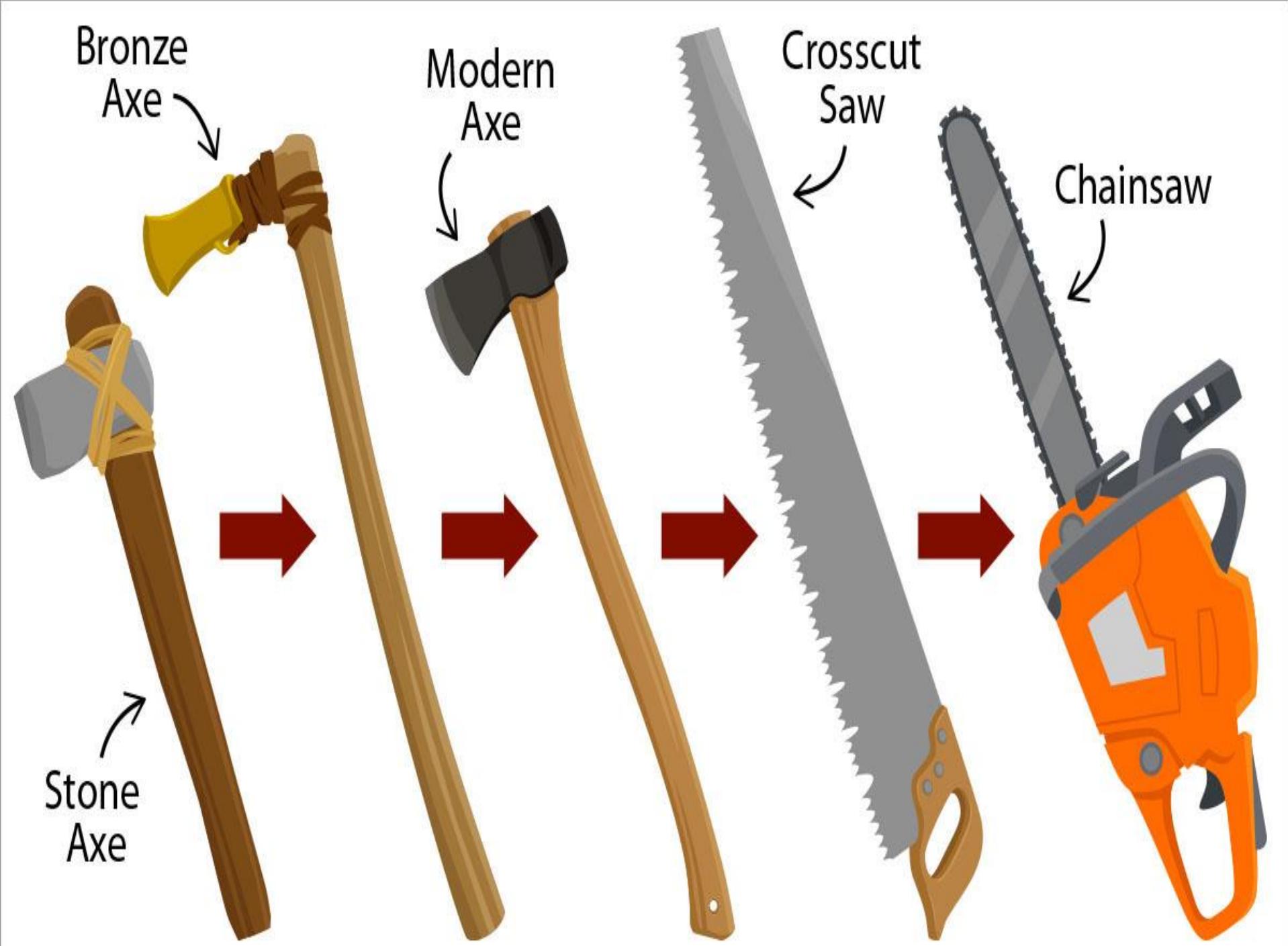
BALL PLAYERS.

Published at James Schouler's Lithographic rooms, 325 Broadway, N.Y.

# Walk The Line...

## ► Unilinealism

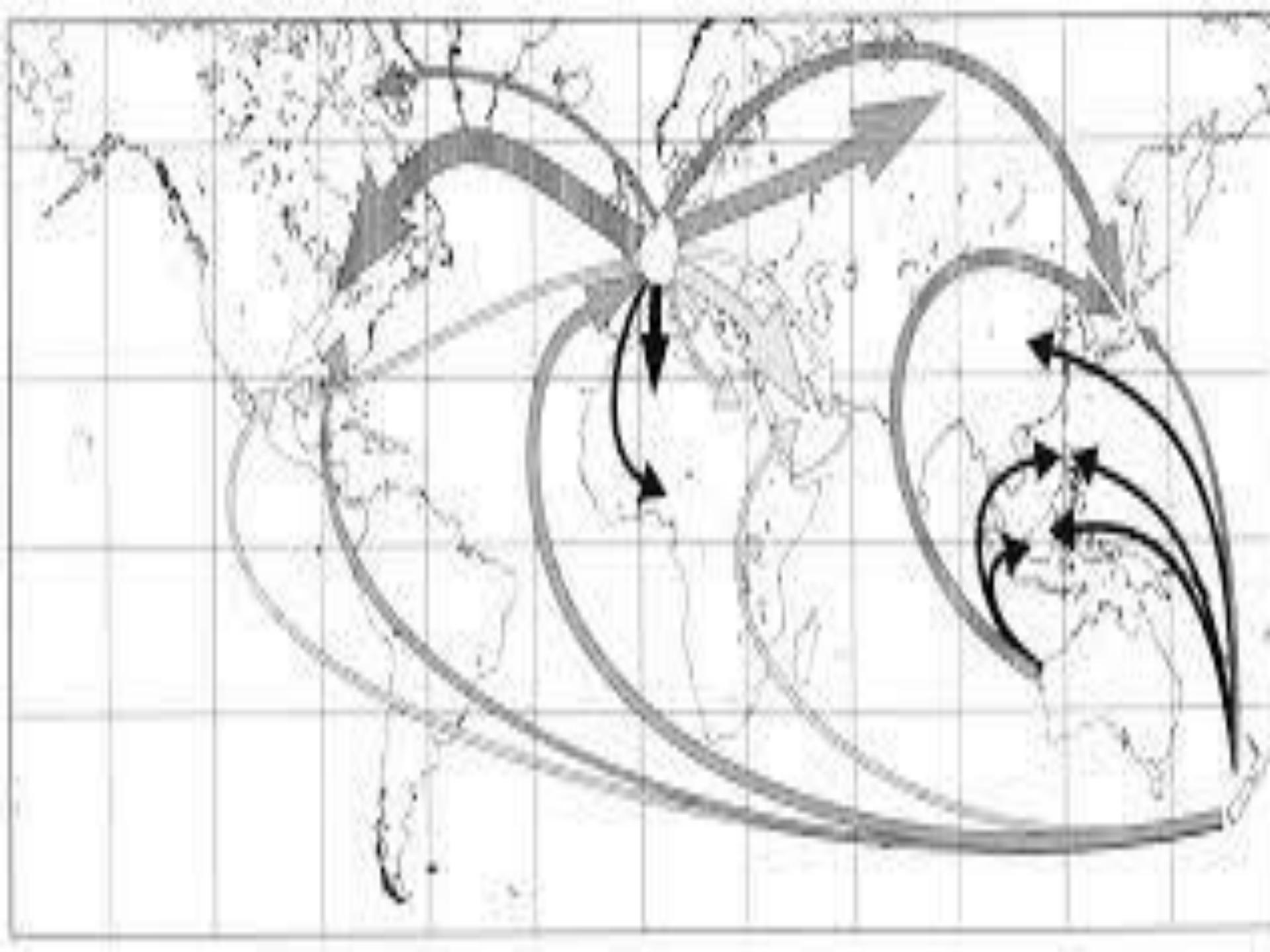
- The belief that all societies go through the same distinct evolutionary phases
- They *EVOLVE...* A “*primitive*” *tribe would eventually become a gun-toting bacon-loving ‘Murica...*
- *OR that all societies follow similar patterns...*
- *Like religious wars...*

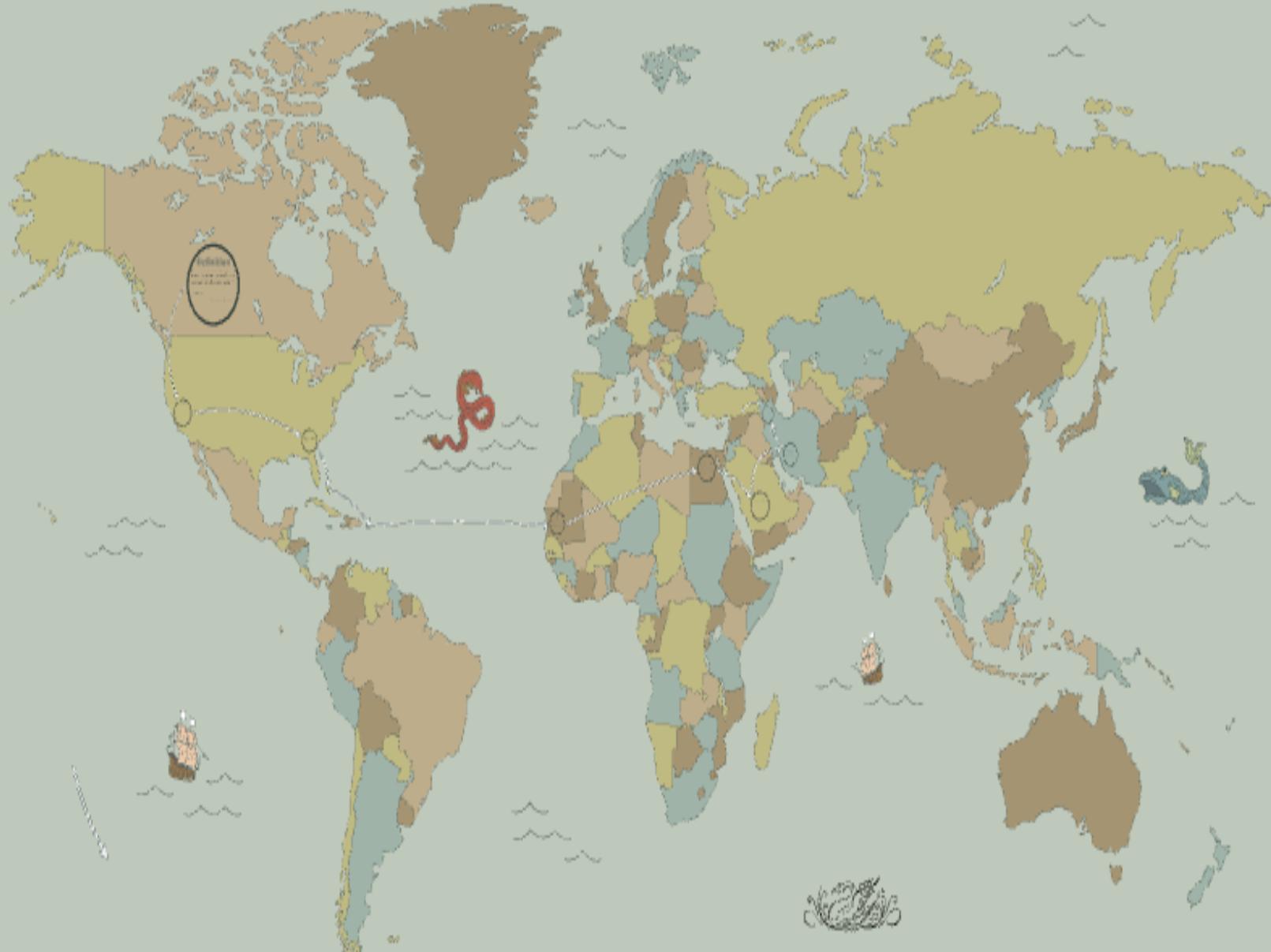


# Blowing A Fuse

## ► Diffusionism

- Rejected evolution and suggested that a few key societies spread their ideas out among others
- *Egyptian culture influence all of Africa, Buddhism influence all Southeast Asia, the Greeks/Romans created “Western Society”*
- *This would mean not everyone would have similar inventions, ideas of government, or even morals and religion*



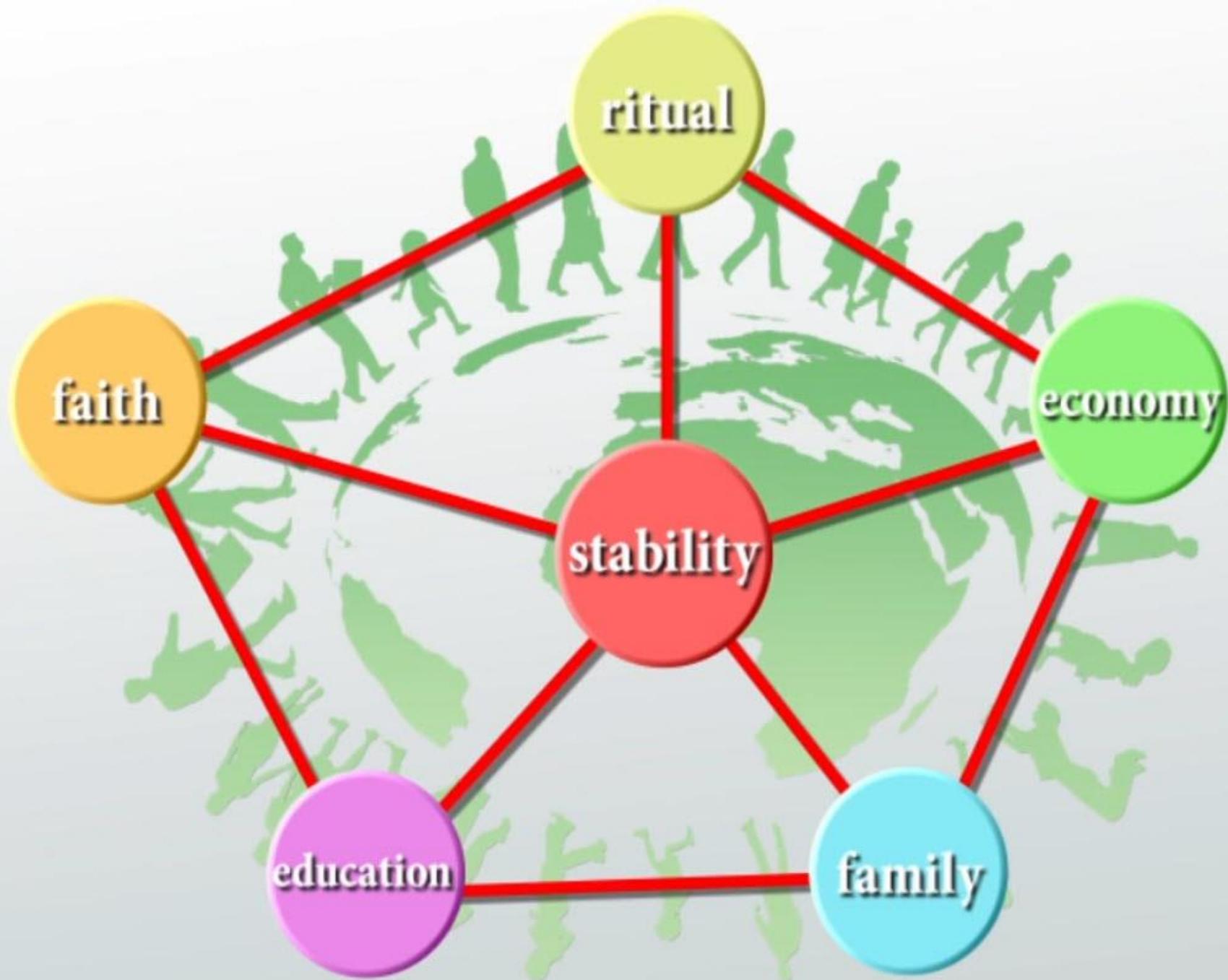


## Diffusionism and Acculturation

# What's Your Major Mulfunction?

## ► Functionalism

- Each society had its own unique elements of culture and this shaped its own evolution *separate from others*
- *Similarities become coincidental or just “human nature”*
- Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, Daoists, Greeks, Hindus, and more all have a “flood story”
- But details, artwork, and the important parts change based on which it is



# Common Cents...

## ► Ethnocentrism

- Looking at another culture with the values, standards, and customs of one's own culture.
- *Judging another person or country the way you judge yourself*
- *Is this fair?*
- *What about things like violence, nudity, drugs, age of adulthood, etc.?*
- *So how do we avoid this?*

EVERYTHING  
COVERED  
BUT HER EYES.  
WHAT A CRUEL  
MALE-  
DOMINATED  
CULTURE!



NOTHING  
COVERED  
BUT HER EYES.  
WHAT A CRUEL  
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EVANS





# It's All Relative...

## ► Cultural Relativism

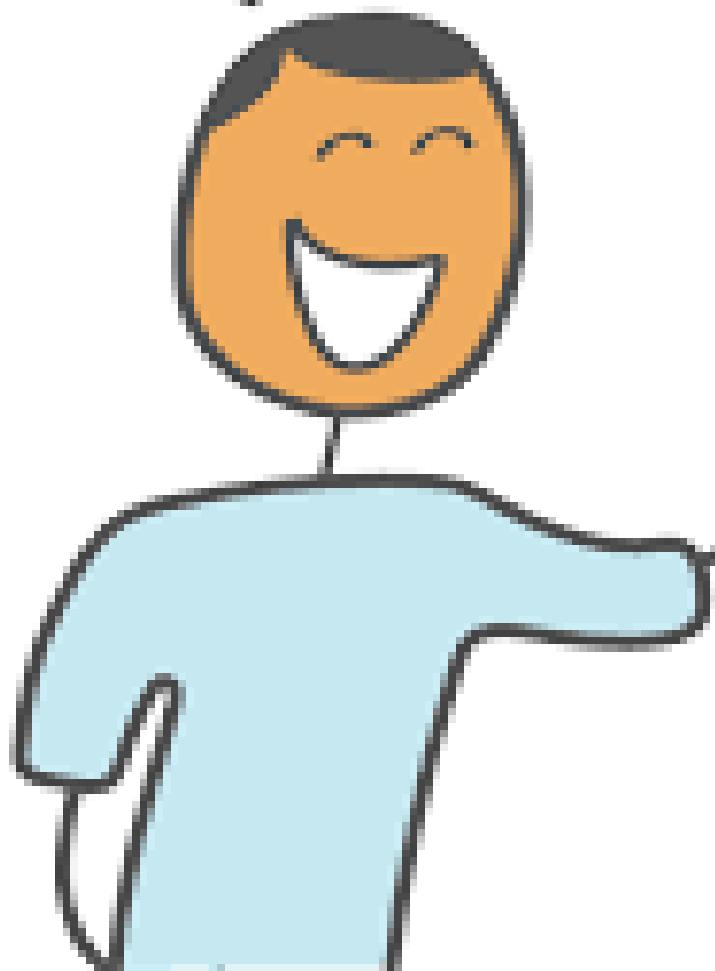
- A culture to be **viewed** and judged by the standards that **they** created
- *We don't judge all other culture by "Western" civilization. Democracy might not be their ideal.*
- *Values and morals may look different, as would families, religion, clothing, music, etc.*
- *If THEIR society says it is "wrong" then it is wrong, regardless off our views*
- *Any problems with THIS?*

try some  
deep fried  
crickets  
they're delicious!

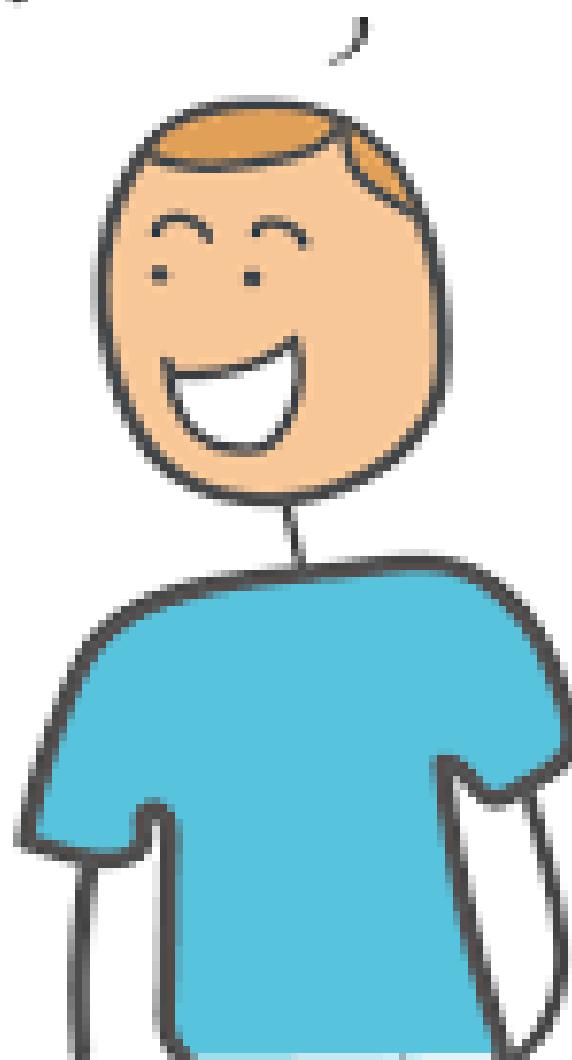
um,  
I think  
I'll pass  
thanks  
,



try some  
deep fried  
crickets  
they're delicious!



I'm not  
used to eating  
crickets... can you  
tell me why  
you like them?



# And so...

- ▶ *Though Anthropology has universal terms and means of study, Anthropologists disagree with HOW that should be done, and often how they believe it came to be*
- ▶ *In addition, we are ever-changing the way we judge the past IN the future*
- ▶ *Which makes sense... since OUR future is also changing. Perhaps what's "right and wrong" today, may change by tomorrow...*
- ▶ *In the meantime remember what Ferris Bueller taught us about "isms"...*



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