

## Relationship with Other Disciplines (1.2)

### ① Difference between Anthropology and Sociology

Anthropology has a vast paradigm so much so that no discipline can be compared with anthropology in totality. In this respect, sociology can be compared with socio-cultural anthropology.

Anthropology is the holistic and scientific study of biological and socio-cultural evolution and variation of man ~~through the ages at across space & time~~ all places.

Sociology is the study of society, social relationships and human social behaviour.

Both study culture. Radcliffe Brown called anthropology as Comparative Sociology.

5-6 Decades ago, there were following differences between them :-

1. Subject matter: Sociologists studied rural and urban communities. While anthropologists studied tribal communities.
2. Field Work Techniques: Sociologists relied on secondary techniques like schedules, interviews and questionnaires. While anthropologists relied on participant observation.
3. Sociology only dealt with particular aspects of society, while socio-cultural anthropology studies man in a holistic way. [extra]

But today, one finds overlapping scope, techniques and borrowing of concepts between the two.

1. Sociologist Emile Durkheim's idea on functions of social phenomena influenced anthropologist Radcliffe Brown.
2. Anthropology has contributed to understanding ethnic conflicts, impact of industrialisation on family etc.
3. Anthropologist Ruth Benedict's studies on national character has contributed to Sociology.