

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018



Welcome to the April 2018 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

In this issue: Recommended Reads: *1984*;
Anthropology - what does it mean to be human?;
Choose your destination and find a way to get there ;
“Read the Book-Watch the Movie”: *Wonder*;
News from Reading club

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

1984

By George Orwell

George Orwell (Eric Blair) in his novel, *1984*, draws an ostensible picture of the future of humanity. The novel is written from a third person perspective who narrates the life of the protagonist of the story, Winston Smith.

He lives in a totalitarian society where the government, known as The Party (Big Brother), establishes its authority and power based on fear and torture. Winston empowers the sense of rebelling against The Party, in his mind and in his actions. For him, it is extremely hard to find someone who cherishes the same mindset as him in a society so emaciated that no one dares to step up against the cruelty of The Party. However, he gets to meet and date Julia who also thinks like Winston.

After a while, he was introduced to O'Brien whom once Winston thought he is working against the party. However, O'Brien turns out to be a high official member of the party. Winston and Julia, both, were caught and tortured by O'Brien. Eventually, both succumb to The Party's will. Both end up loving Big Brother.

In the meantime that Winston is trying to secretly work against the party, he receives a book, called *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*, to read. Winston gets to read three main chapters of the book each named "Ignorance is Strength", "Freedom is Slavery", and "War is Peace", respectively. Orwell through this book presents his political and social ideology in a non-fictional method - more of a history book - to help the readers to understand the historical, political, and social context of the plots and the story as a whole.

Some notions written on *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism* worth thinking. Some of the examples include, "War hysteria is continuous and universal in all countries." and "... in a physical sense war involves very small number of people, mostly high trained specialists." (Pg. 186), "The essential act of war is destruction, not necessarily of human lives, but of the products of human labor." (Pg. 191), and "Inequality was the price of civilization." (Pg. 204) to mention a few. They all come to a general question that Orwell tries to answer - "how can human nature be changed?". The novel also puts the idea of freedom, power, justice, and equality on the table for the readers to grasp an image of a world where these concepts are meant differently.

For those who are interested in reading novels with general themes of foreign affairs, sociology, or perhaps a little bit of philosophy, *1984* is highly recommended.

Ali Yaser Shoayb, BCA

Location: Main

Call number: 823.912 O79n 2003

Anthropology What does it mean to be human?

Anthropology can be defined as the study of human nature, human society, and the human past (cf. Greenwood and Stini 1997). It is a scholarly discipline that aims to describe in the broadest possible sense what it means to be human.

Anthropology is distinctive because it emphasizes the ways that all these aspects of human life intersect with one another in complex ways, how they shape one another and become integrated with one another over time. This is the anthropological understanding of holism. At the most inclusive level, we may thus think of anthropology as the integrated (or holistic) study of human nature, human society, and the human past.

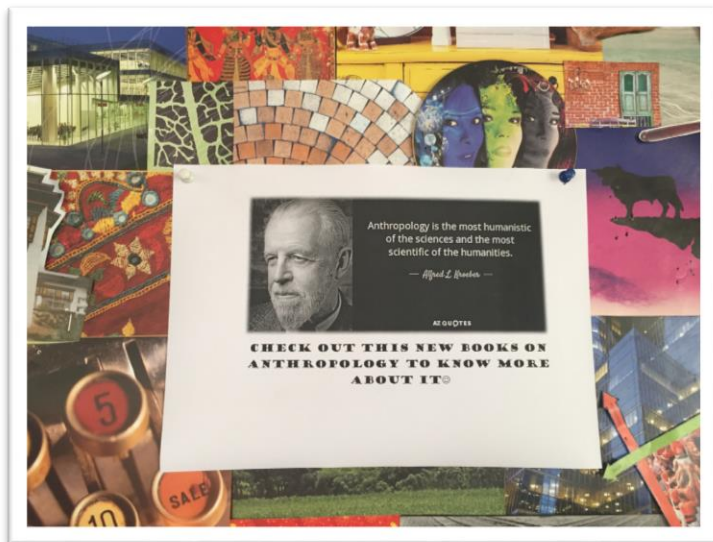
To generalize about human nature, human society, and the human past requires evidence from the widest possible range of human societies. Thus, in addition to being holistic, anthropology is a discipline interested in Comparison.

(Lavenda, R H & Schultz, E A. (2008). *Anthropology: what does it mean to be human?* New York: Oxford university press.)

To explore and learn more about Anthropology and what it means to be human check out these new Anthropology books that are on display in the library.

Also, follow this under my.rtc.bt --> Library --> Online Resources by Subject --> Anthropology /Sociology/ Political Science to get free access to journals related to Anthropology or visit directly:

<https://my.rtc.bt/academics/library/10-main/576-lrc-anthropology-social-sciences-sociology>



Tashi Choden, RTC Library

CHOOSE YOUR DESTINATION AND FIND A WAY TO GET THERE!



We all know that the library houses books, journals and even movies for us to browse through. The library offers a quiet place to finish up projects or simply get lost in a good book. Did you know that there have been a few changes to the contents of the library? Are you aware that the library also offers information on higher education and scholarships from around the world?

Unless you are a frequent visitor to the library, you may not have noticed that some of the display shelves that used to hold magazines now house university brochures for those who are interested in further studies after graduation. There are brochures that offer programmes you may not have even heard of in destinations all across the world. If you choose to go for further studies, you don't have to study the same thing you studied here at RTC.

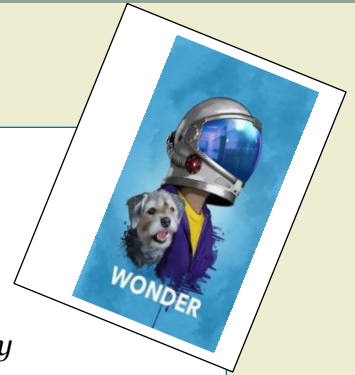
We want to give you a few tips on how to use the brochures and get the most out of your college search. Firstly, the library staff, career development staff and external relations office will not have all the answers to your specific questions about other universities and programmes. The brochures are resources to begin your research on courses and universities, but we can give you a few tips to use them wisely.

- Check out the school website as they will have the most detailed information regarding programmes, fees and scholarships for international students.
- Compare similar programmes to see what the best fit is for you and your study habits.
- Pay attention to application deadlines and how many intakes a particular program has.
- Double check the accreditation to ensure it is up to date.
- It is unlikely you will be able to apply for scholarships from most schools if you have not filled out an application for the programme.
- Check the entry requirements for each programme. Programme requirements and fees may vary within the university due to the programme.
- Come up with a realistic financial guideline so you can check the cost of tuition, room and board, books, transportation to the location and everyday living expenditures. There can be a lot of variation depending on the length of programme and frequency that you wish to return home.
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Each university has an admissions team that will be able to answer questions that you have, but do keep in mind that most of the information is on the website and you may be able to find answers quickly by looking under “admissions” or “prospective international student”. As new materials come in, the library will update them. We thank you for leaving the materials in the library so that all students can benefit from them.

Lindsay Kamakahi, International Programmes Adviser

Read the book, watch the movie!



Wonder

Book by R. J. Palacio

Movie Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay

Wonder begins with Auggie facing a new sort of challenge: entering fifth grade at a mainstream prep academy after being homeschooled his whole life.

Wonder, both the book and the film, has received praise for being a nuanced tear-jerker about a difficult subject. The story's emphasis on the value of empathy has resonated with many educators, parents, and children, while the struggles of its main character have spurred a greater awareness of craniofacial conditions, which affect the formation of the skull and face.

Told from several different perspectives, Wonder is broadly about human connection and the idea that everyone is extraordinary in their own way. As a result, the new adaptation (and to a lesser extent the novel) speaks less to people living with disfigurement and more directly to those affected by its aftermath—the family and friends of individuals with craniofacial conditions—and to the general public. Wonder is, to be sure, a well-crafted, well-intentioned movie. But it also downplays some important economic, emotional, medical, and psychological realities of living with a facial difference. In neglecting key opportunities to build on its source material, Wonder missed a chance to better represent the experiences of children like Auggie who are already so widely misunderstood.

Reviews at: [Theatlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com)

I read the book and it is one of my all-time favorite book. As always the movie is not as detailed as the book and Auggie Pullman looks so much better in movie than the descriptions of him given in the book. I assure you that you will enjoy reading and watching both the book and the movie as much as I did ☺

Tashi Choden, RTC Library

The book:
Location: FIC
Call no: FIC P1534w

The Movie: Available on the MMS

News from the Reading Club:

On 22nd March the Reading Club had a discussion with Aum Kunzang Choden famously known for her book “Dawa the story of a stray dog in Bhutan”. She has also written books on folktales and Bhutanese food. She has been an inspiration for all, especially for the young aspiring writers.

Besides talking about her writing she also talked about her childhood. For example her time in an Irish convent in India where she was the only one speaking Bumthap and she didn't understand a word of English, which meant she had no one to talk to. So at night she used to tell stories to herself (which illustrates how important the oral tradition is)



Wanted! Book reviews from Faculty, Staff, and Students

If you have read a good book and would like to contribute a review to the Library Newsletter, we would love to receive one from you. Tell us a little about the book and why you liked it in 250-500 words. If interested, send your review to tashichoden@rtc.bt or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thanks!!