



## APPROACHES TO ANTHROPOLOGY OF ISLAM SOME REFLECTIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Anthropology focuses on the study of Other. Different tools and methods have been used for its studies. Same has happened with anthropological studies of Islam. Some gave it more a comparative look based on scriptural Islam and local one while others criticized this technique and gave more importance to its traditions which includes a religion can be understood only by its interpretive texts not by its followers. This research paper throws light on different approaches and methodologies of Anthropology of Islam.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this paper are:

1. This paper focuses on basic concept of Anthropology of Islam.
2. It aims to highlight different approaches to Anthropology of Islam
3. It explores how anthropology of Islam turned into a distinctive subject.

**KEYWORDS:** Anthropology of Islam, Real Islam, Folk Islam, Discursive Tradition and Texts

### INTRODUCTION

The fundamental purpose of anthropological research is to study different communities and cultures from native perspective with all its endurance. The goal Of historical anthropological thought was to study other communities comprehensively and comparatively. The 19th and 20th centuries provided impetus to the emergency of ethnological studies with field study as basic tool in colonial era. So in earlier years many theories have been applied to examine the unity and diversity of humanity. Thus it influenced the approaches of anthropologists to the study of Islam (**kreinath, 2018, p. 1**)<sup>1</sup>

In contemporary time's Social and Cultural anthropology compares the study of Islam on the pattern of historical particularism and cultural relativism with critical analysis. There are different approaches to the anthropology of Islam more often are based on ethnographic works. The Islam has vast domain and is diverse in many aspects be it geographical, ethnical, racial, cultural and historical.

### ANTHROPOLOGY OF ISLAM

Anthropology of Islam investigates the establishment and operations of different ethnical, religious and theological teachings. How Muslims act and practice these teachings in their