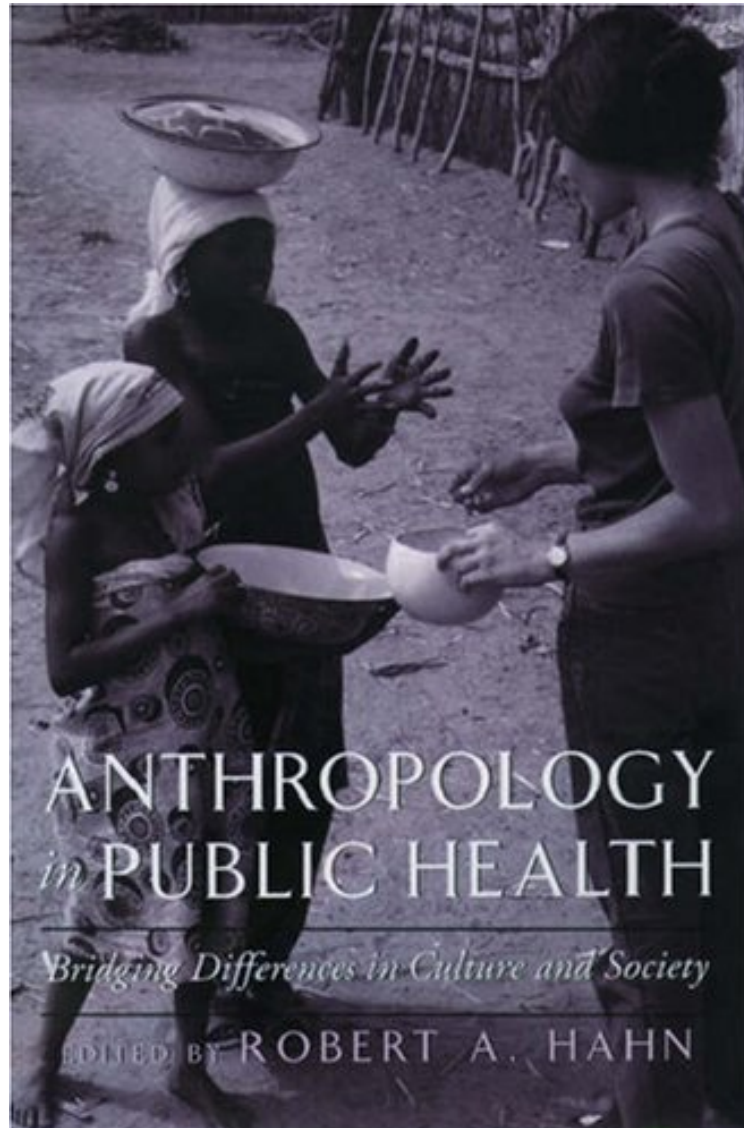


# Anthropology in Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society

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Cultural and social boundaries often separate those who participate in public health activities, and it is a major challenge to translate public health knowledge and technical capacity into public health action across these boundaries. This book provides an overview of anthropology, and illustrates with the aid of 15 case studies, concepts and methods that could help us understand and resolve diverse public health problems across the world and across these boundaries. This text shows how differences in concepts and terminology among patients, clinicians, and epidemiologists in a southwestern U.S. county hinder the control of epidemics. In addition, it also examines why Mexican farmers don't use protective equipment when spraying pesticides and suggest ways to increase use. The subsequent section examines the culture of international health agencies, demonstrates institutional values and practices that impede effective public health practice, and suggests issues that must be addressed to enhance institutional organization and process.

"This book is oriented towards public health practitioners, and, as befits the supremely pragmatic orientation of that field, it is a very helpful compendium of the applications of medical anthropology to solve specific problems. As a collection of case studies, it is probably without peer. It is broader in orientation than either Trostle's *Epidemiology and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 1995) or Nichter's *Global Health: Why Cultural Perceptions, Social Representations, and Biopolitics Matter* (University of Arizona Press, 2008)."--Doody'sAbout the AuthorRobert A. Hahn is at U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.