

All human life unfolds within a matrix of relations, which are at once social and biological. Yet the study of humanity has long been divided between often incompatible 'social' and 'biological' approaches.

Reaching beyond the dualisms of nature and society, and of biology and culture, this volume proposes a unique and integrated view of anthropology and the life sciences. Featuring contributions from leading anthropologists, it explores human life as a process of 'becoming' rather than 'being', and demonstrates that humanity is neither given in the nature of our species nor acquired through culture, but forged in the process of life itself. Combining wide-ranging theoretical argument with in-depth discussion of material from recent or ongoing field research, the chapters demonstrate how contemporary anthropology can move forward in tandem with ground-breaking discoveries in the biological sciences.

TIM INGOLD is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen.

GISLI PALSSON is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik.

'This ambitious and highly original volume... is a challenge to deeply rooted modes of scientific thought, and an intellectually very rewarding work.'

Jonathan Marks, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

'A thought-provoking collection of essays... The subtitle of the book promises a new integration of social and biological anthropology after a long century of divorce. It does more: it explores a conceptual space that is no longer dominated by the dichotomy between nature and culture.'

Hans-Jörg Rheinberger, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

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