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## Bias in the Biography: Bias and Subjectivity in Ethnographic Research

MARGARET D. LECOMPTE

This article is concerned with bias and subjectivity in ethnographic research. Since the research in ethnography cannot eliminate biographical determinants,

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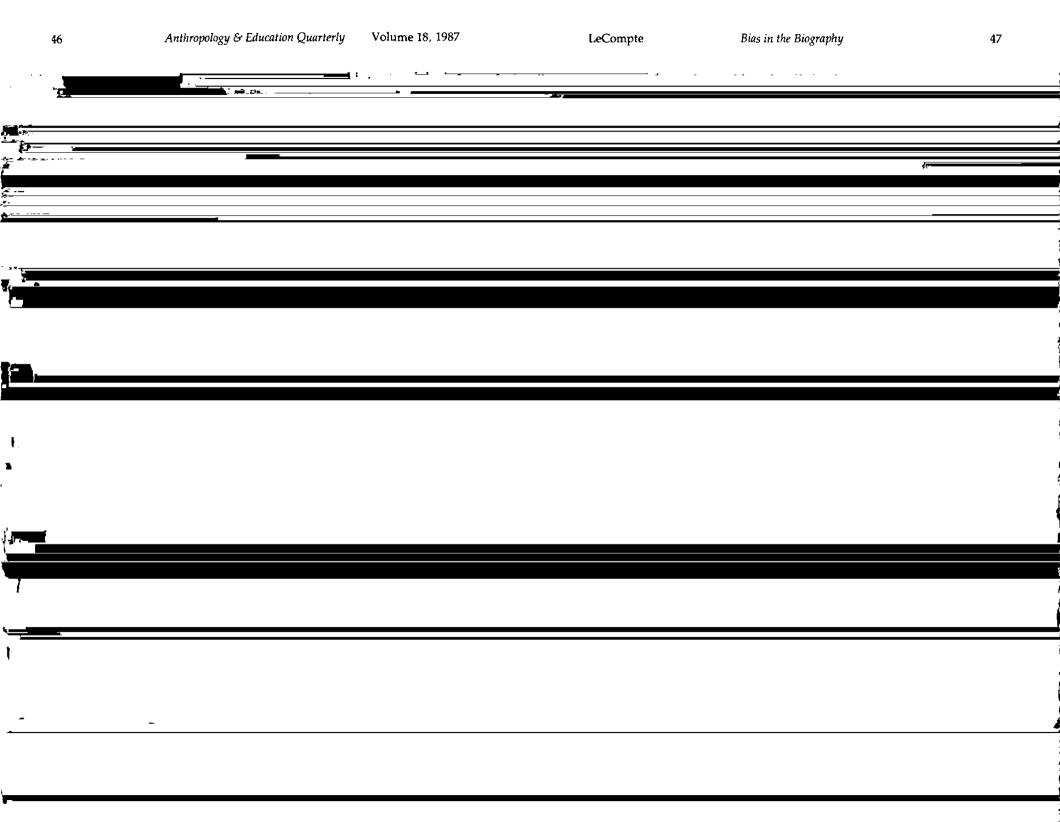
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bias in my own work. In so doing, I have been guided by the assumption that bias derives from personal human history and experience, and have based my inquiry into my own work and that of others in our field accordingly. I have been helped in this endeavor by a series

pology, and who worked in museums or university departments of anthropology. They were united by an interest in cultural transmission and its impact on personality, and they focused on the *context* of learning, as embodied in descriptions of the characteristics of cultural

sources of influence when examining the impact of particular forms of

The domestic or institutional stage. This period lasted from the mid-1950s



definitions in cultural transmission and learning, and too many of the studies carried out in our field seem "merely descriptive" and devoid of a theoretical base.

