

Babette Hellemans

## Understanding Culture

*A Handbook for Students in the Humanities*

This textbook explores the theoretical background of cultural variety, both in past and present. How is it possible to study 'culture' when the topic covers the arts, literature, movies, history, sociology, anthropology and gender studies? Understanding Culture examines the evolution of a concept with varying meanings depending on changing norms. Offering a long-duration analysis of the relationship between culture and nature, this book looks at the origins of studying culture from an international perspective.

Using examples from the several scholarly traditions in the practice of studying culture, Understanding Culture is a key introduction to the area. It identifies the history of interpreting culture as a meeting point between the long-standing historical investigation of 'humanism' and 'postmodernism' and is a comprehensive resource for those who wish to further their engagement with culture as both a historical and contemporary phenomenon.

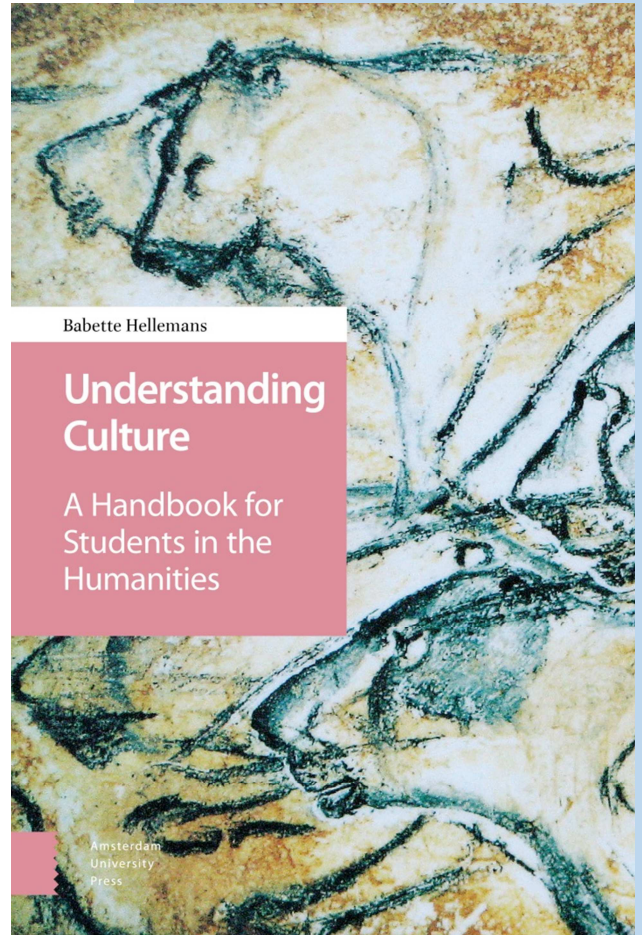
Keywords: history of mentality, psychoanalysis, Marxism, linguistic structuralism, cultural analysis, gender studies, agency, Zeitgeist, discourse, anthropology, memory-studies

*"Er is goede reden gelukkig te zijn met de verschijning van dit tekstboek: het voorziet in een behoefte aan een heldere inleiding in het fenomeen 'cultuur'."*

Professor in Cultural History and the History of Political Thought at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands

*"Babette Hellemans reminds us of a simple but wide-ranging insight and truth: culture matters(...)"*

Russ Family Professor in the Humanities and Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore & Director, School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, Ithaca



**Babette Hellemans** teaches Cultural History and Medieval History at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. She has published books and articles in English, French and Dutch focusing especially on the French intellectual tradition, the relationship between religion, academic discourse and the anthropology of images.

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