

Routes to the Roots

Anthropology of Genealogical Practices

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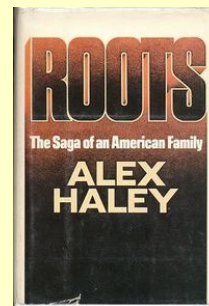
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Challenging issues

- **Is the search for roots, the property of a social group, and / or the ownership of a set of persons?**
- **Is this practice more legitimate in some cases than in others ?**
- **What hides behind “Senses of origins” and “routes to the roots” projects ?**
- **May we compare :**
 - Adoptee’ life stories with migrant’s life stories?
 - The search for origins with genealogical activity?

Anthropology & Genealogy

- **Genealogy as a method**
- **Genealogy as a research topic**
 - Understanding why genealogy has become so popular in the mid 1970s America, and elsewhere in the world (France, Ireland, Québec...).





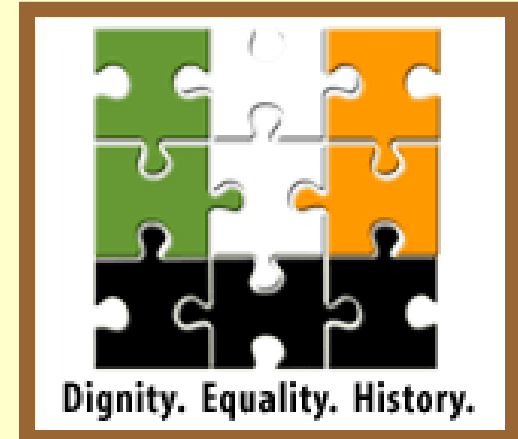
Genealogical Activity

- **Empirical knowledge**
 - Kinship, place, history, memory
 - Blood and Land
- **Transmission and breakdowns**
 - Blood dislocation & genealogical bewilderment
 - Spatial remoteness & deterritorialisation
- **Perfectible and valuable knowledge**
 - Review, completion and transformation
 - Expertise valuations, institutional controls



Representations, Facts & Figures

- **Visceral need**
- **Construction set**
- **Right**
- **Interconnectedness**
- **Patience, time, organization**
- **Emotivity, Sensitivity and Feelings**





Whose Research? Whose Benefits?

- **Individual benefits:**
 - Self knowledge and social recognition
 - Claiming for titles, civil rights or estates
- **Institutional benefits:**
 - Developing tourism industry and boosting national economies
 - Constructing a positive representation of sending countries