

REFLECTIONS I: BIOGRAPHIES

SYNOPTIC SUBJECTS? THE SCOPE AND METHODS OF PHILOSOPHY, GEOGRAPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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Halford Mackinder is famous for, amongst other things, his lantern slide lecture 'On the Scope and Methods of Geography', delivered at the Royal Geographical Society in 1887. This speculative talk explores some of the connections between shifting synoptic methodological practices which predate that lecture and the recurrence in the fin de siècle and early decades of the twentieth century of the expression 'the scope and methods' in key lectures (and subsequent publications) delivered by the utilitarian philosopher and economist, Henry Sidgwick, and the classicist and armchair anthropologist, James George Frazer. In so doing I connect hypothetical lines of projection between these works, their authors and the disciplines with which they are traditionally associated in geographical historiography.

40 Years of HPGRG – Looking back and looking forward

A one-day symposium of the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG) of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG), Tuesday, 7 September 2021 on Microsoft Teams