

AN INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR ANTHROPOLOGY

Molecular anthropology uses molecular genetic methods to address questions and issues of anthropological interest. More specifically, molecular anthropology is concerned with genetic evidence concerning human origins, migrations, and population relationships, including related topics such as the role of recent natural selection in human population differentiation, or the impact of particular social systems on patterns of human genetic variation.

Organized into three major sections, *An Introduction to Molecular Anthropology* first covers the basics of genetics; what genes are, what they do, and how they do it, as well as how genes behave in populations and how evolution influences them. The following section provides an overview of the different kinds of genetic variation in humans and how this variation is analyzed and used to make evolutionary inferences. The third section concludes with a presentation of the current state of genetic evidence for human origins, the spread of humans around the world, the role of selection and adaptation in human evolution, and the impact of culture on human genetic variation. A final, concluding chapter discusses various aspects of molecular anthropology in the genomics era, including personal ancestry testing and personal genomics.

An Introduction to Molecular Anthropology is an invaluable resource for students studying human evolution, biological anthropology, or molecular anthropology, as well as a reference for anthropologists and anyone else interested in the genetic history of humans.

- Written by an expert with experience teaching advanced molecular anthropology as well as introductory courses for students without a science background.
- Covers basic genetic concepts such as what genes are, what they do, and how they are inherited.
- Chapters build from basic genetic and evolutionary concepts to the types of data, methods of analyses, and significant findings of molecular anthropology, to using genetics to make inferences about culture and molecular anthropology in the genomics age.
- Fills an important and unmet need for introductory molecular anthropology texts.

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