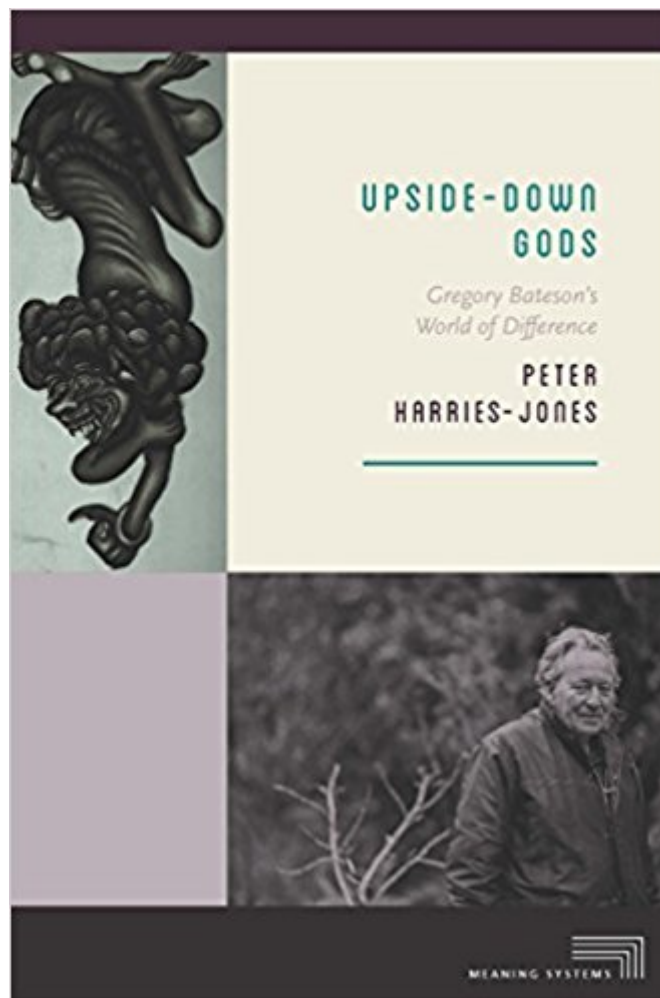




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Upside-Down Gods: Gregory Bateson's World Of Difference (Meaning Systems)



Synopsis

Science's conventional understanding of environment as an inert material resource underlies our unwillingness to acknowledge the military-industrial role in ongoing ecological catastrophes. In a crucial challenge to modern science's exclusive attachment to materialist premises, Bateson reframed culture, psychology, biology, and evolution in terms of feedback and communication, fundamentally altering perception of our relationship with nature. This intellectual biography covers the whole trajectory of Bateson's career, from his first anthropological work alongside Margaret Mead through the continuing relevance of his late forays into biosemiotics. Harries-Jones shows how the sum of Bateson's thinking across numerous fields turns our notions of causality upside down, providing a moral divide between sustainable creativity and our current biocide.

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"Upside-Down Gods is a gift of meticulous scholarship and insight for all interested in the extraordinary intellectual path of Gregory Bateson and the wide-ranging, multidisciplinary debates he was central to--debates that are still relevant--about anthropology, psychology, animal cognition, biosemiotics, ecology, epistemology, and systems theory."-Tyler Volk, New York University, author of Metapatterns Across Space, Time, and Mind

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Peter Harries-Jones is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at York University. He is the author of A Recursive Vision: Ecological Understanding and Gregory Bateson (Toronto).

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