Coming of Age: Margaret Mead

\* Beginning on the island of American Samoa.

1925 – Psychological view of Samoan Adolescence

Mom was a Sociologist and worked with Italian immigrants.

Barnard Graduation Ceremony – Meads Alma Mater. Doesn’t seem strange when rites are part of our own society.

Dr. Luther Cressman – lst husband

Worked with Franz Boas and Ruth Benedict

Nature /Nurture debate

* Specifically Adolescence –

Local girls asked about sex before marriage

Mead discussing her time there – Food, Clothes

\* Coming of Age in Samoa written for the public-at- large

Did she **really** get Samoan life and language?

1928 – Married Reo Fortune – Little contact with colonials

Manus Islands – Pere Village – interested in the accumulation of wealth

Famous book: 1930

Growing up in New Guinea

Adults: Child-like mentality then what of the children?

First 6 months in Manus

* Watched them drawing
* Representations of real things – boats, beaches, etc.
* 35K drawings and pictures

First discussion of giving back to her

Population –

Self-reflexive

She would return to Pere over and over after World War II

1931 – New Guinea – Began work on gender roles

* Mundugumor
* Arapesh
* Chambri

Met Gregory Bateson while still married to Fortune.

Impact of Anthros on the people they studied – “We were a continuous circus.”

3rd Book: 1925

Sex and Temperament

1936 – married Bateson on the way to Bali

Photographic essay linked by works

Most intensively documented with still photos ever done

Early film- Trance and Dance in Bali

* Behaviors of mothers to their babies.

Mary Katherine Bateson – 1939 – daughter

\*Breast fed for a long time

Used ideas from “primitive society”

Dr. Benjamin Spock

A completely documented life

World War II – recruited by U.S. War Department to go to England to work out why there was a clash between U. S. soldiers and U.K. women.

U.S. women had the responsibility to say stop.

U.K. stopping was the man’s worry

After war – divorced Bateson.

1957 Writing about the changes she observed since early 1930’s

Mead – Back to Manus Island

Pere Village was moved from the Island Manus to PNG proper.

The people of Pere speak of Mead with a fondness like family members.

Redbook – columns Beginning in 1960.

1975 – Last time she checked in at Pere.

Margaret Mead died in 1978 of cancer. She was 76.

