

Mildred Trotter and the Invisible Histories of Physical and Forensic Anthropology

Mildred Trotter was a pioneering physical and forensic anthropologist whose work helped to shape the field. She was one of the first women to earn a doctorate in anthropology, and she went on to become a leading expert in the study of human variation and identification.



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★★★★★ 5 out of 5



Trotter's work was groundbreaking in many ways. She developed new methods for measuring and analyzing human bones, and she helped to establish the field of forensic anthropology. Her work on the identification of human remains has been used in countless criminal investigations, and it has helped to bring closure to families of missing persons.

Trotter was also a strong advocate for women in science. She was one of the founders of the Society for Women in Physical Anthropology, and she

served as its first president. She also mentored many young women who went on to become successful anthropologists.

Trotter's work has had a lasting impact on the field of anthropology. She was a pioneer in the study of human variation and identification, and her work has helped to shape our understanding of human evolution and history.

Early Life and Education

Mildred Trotter was born in 1899 in Oxford, Ohio. Her father was a professor of mathematics, and her mother was a homemaker. Trotter was a bright and inquisitive child, and she excelled in school. She attended Miami University in Oxford, where she majored in zoology.

After graduating from Miami University, Trotter worked as a research assistant at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. In 1925, she enrolled in the graduate program in anthropology at Columbia University. She was one of only a few women in the program, and she faced discrimination from some of her professors.

Despite the challenges she faced, Trotter persevered and earned her doctorate in anthropology in 1931. Her dissertation was on the measurement of human bones, and it was a groundbreaking work that helped to establish new standards for the field.

Career

After earning her doctorate, Trotter worked as a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History. In 1935, she joined the faculty of

Washington University in St. Louis, where she taught physical anthropology and forensic anthropology.

Trotter's work at Washington University was groundbreaking in many ways. She developed new methods for measuring and analyzing human bones, and she helped to establish the field of forensic anthropology. Her work on the identification of human remains has been used in countless criminal investigations, and it has helped to bring closure to families of missing persons.

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Legacy

Mildred Trotter died in 1991 at the age of 92. She left behind a legacy of groundbreaking research and scholarship. Her work has had a lasting impact on the field of anthropology, and she is considered to be one of the most important figures in the history of the discipline.

Trotter's work has helped to shape our understanding of human variation and identification. Her methods for measuring and analyzing human bones are still used today, and her work on forensic anthropology has helped to solve countless crimes.

Trotter was also a strong advocate for women in science. She paved the way for other women to enter the field of anthropology, and she helped to create a more inclusive and equitable discipline.

Mildred Trotter was a pioneering physical and forensic anthropologist whose work has had a lasting impact on the field. She was a brilliant scientist, a dedicated mentor, and a tireless advocate for women in science. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations of anthropologists to come.

Further Reading

- Mildred Trotter: A Pioneer in Physical and Forensic Anthropology
- The Society for Women in Physical Anthropology
- The American Museum of Natural History
- Washington University in St. Louis



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