

Ashley Montagu, anthropologist, lectures on race

November 25, 1970

Ashley Montagu, British-born anthropologist and social biologist, will lecture on "Race and Other Contemporary Befuddlements" at 8:00 p.m., Monday, December 7, in the Humanities-Library Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The talk, co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the UCSD Campus Programming Board, is free and open to the public.

Montagu has long courted controversy by upsetting what he has called "venerable errors" during his career as educator and writer in the United States. He is a talented popularizer of science who has ventured into such sensitive areas as race, the relations between them and child rearing.

He is perhaps best known for the 1950 UNESCO "Statement on Race" which he helped to draw up, and for his book "The Natural Superiority of Women" written in 1953.

From 1949 to 1955 Montagu was Professor of Anthropology and Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at Rutgers University where he put into practice his conviction that "anthropology is the most important of all the disciplines and should form both the basis and core of every educational curriculum - if we are ever to succeed in humanizing education."

Montagu was born in London, England, in 1905. From 1922 to 1925 he studied at University College, the University of London. His first professional job was that of a research worker in natural history at the British Museum in London in 1926. A year later he came to the United States to begin his graduate study at Columbia University.

He became Assistant Professor of Anatomy at New York University and an anthropologist with the Division of Child Research in 1931. He remained at NYU while continuing his graduate work at Columbia where he received his Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1937.

Following his graduation he became Associate Professor of Anatomy at the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in Philadelphia where he stayed until joining the faculty at Rutgers in 1949.

In 1955 Montagu resigned his academic post to devote himself to his own projects. He has since written a steady stream of books and many articles for scientific and popular magazines. He has often presented the same material in different ways to specialists and the public.

He served as a Visiting Lecturer at Harvard University in 1945, as a Visiting Professor at the University of Delaware in 1955, and as a Regents' Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1962. He is a member of numerous American and foreign societies and associations.