

'The Digital and the Human'

Daniel Miller

This paper introduces the study of digital anthropology. The emphasis is at least as much on how this development allows us to re-think the nature and potential of anthropology as a discipline as it is on understanding the impact of digital technologies. There are three main sections. The first asks what exactly should we mean by the term digital and what are the consequences of that definition. This leads to a comparison between the digital and money. The second takes a specific argument as to what we mean by anthropological and uses this to challenge the idea that digital media mediate. The third looks at the confluence of the digital and anthropology to show how this transforms our understanding of the normative as foundational to anthropology.