

Renee Hirschon

Renée Hirschon, *BA Cape Town, MA DPhilOxf*, was educated at the Universities of Cape Town, Chicago, and Oxford. She is a Senior Research Fellow of St Peter's College, and a Senior Member of St Antony's College, University of Oxford. She is also a Research Associate of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, and of the Refugee Studies Centre at this University. She was a senior founding member of the first Department of Social Anthropology in Greece, at the University of the Aegean (Lesbos), where she was Professor of Social Anthropology and Chairperson of the department from 1987 until 1998. Prior to that, she taught for many years at Oxford Brookes University, where she specialized in teaching the Anthropology of Europe. Her regional research interests encompass Greece, the Aegean and Balkan regions.

Renée's pioneering fieldwork (1969-72) was conducted in an urban settlement among Asia Minor refugees who were relocated in Piraeus, Greece, following the compulsory population exchange between Greece and Turkey (Lausanne Convention 1923). She particularly values a multidisciplinary approach and has collaborated with architects and urban planners, (concentrating on the interplay of cultural values, symbolism and the use of space), with socio -linguists, and more recently, with historians and political scientists. Her publications and research cover a wide range of interests, among them identity, nationalism, cosmology, ritual, gender, migration, diasporas, spatial organization, and the ethnography of speaking. She is concerned with the relevance of anthropological knowledge to contemporary conditions.