In her talk, Dr. Reichel charts the complex relationship between early 20th-century American anthropology and the poetry of two of its key protagonists, Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead. Both earned their Ph.D. degrees under Franz Boas at Columbia University and went on to contribute to the establishment of the pluralist and relativist conceptualization of culture that is today considered Boas's principal legacy in cultural anthropology. In sharp contrast to the great renown that they enjoy for this work, Benedict and Mead's shared interest in probing the representational potential of different media and forms of writing remains largely unexplored. This talk grows out of a research project that presents the first sustained study of their poetry.