

RESEARCH MASTER IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Start: Winter Semester 2009/2010

Current Application deadline: 15th of September 2009

Languages of instruction: German and English.

Social anthropology is the study of cultural differences. It aims to observe, analyse and interpret fields of social action, characterized by such differences, in a methodical and theoretically grounded manner. It enables one to interact in such fields in a scientifically valid, socially relevant and ethically responsible manner.

This Masters Programme focuses on the theories and current research issues of social anthropology, to be applied and further developed in the course of empirical research. The comparison of societies provides the basic theoretical perspective and informs the methodological approaches.

ACQUIRED COMPETENCES

- intercultural communicative competence based on a perceptive awareness of cultural difference;
- methodological skills in designing and implementing research projects in Germany and abroad;
- capability to contribute to innovative developments in anthropological theory and knowledge;
- ability to transfer anthropological knowledge in a socially relevant and ethically responsible manner to both scholarly audiences and the general public;
- skills in orientation, decision-making and informed action in culturally unfamiliar social situations.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Module 1: 'Cultural foundations of sociality' mediates an understanding of how members of societies model their social interactions and how these interactions can be conceptualised so as to facilitate their analysis and comparison in empirical research?

Module 3: 'Research methods and cultural interaction' focuses on the analysis of intercultural communication in various modalities, such as conceptualising the stranger, trans-nationalism and globalisation, and the practice of ethnographic data collecting. The Module offers a special course in trans-cultural psychiatry.

Modules 2 und 4: 'Regional Specialization', with optional foci on Southeast Asia, South Asia/Indian Ocean and Africa. The anthropological focus on Southeast Asia is supplemented by a historical one. In each of these Modules one seminar may be taken in affiliated disciplines (Sinology, Arabic and Islamic Studies, History, European Anthropology etc.).

Module 5: 'Empirical Research'. The Masters Programme favours conducting an empirical, self-organized research in Germany or abroad. The data collected provide the empirical basis for the Masters Thesis. Research may be a field study (employing standard techniques such as participant observation, interviews, audio-visual recording) or museum or archival research. International agreements facilitating such researches have been concluded.

Module 6: 'Masters Thesis'. In a Masters Thesis Colloquium additional skills relevant for pursuing academic careers (conference participation, academic publishing etc.) are developed.

TERMS OF ADMITTENCE

Applicants must hold a Bachelor Degree in a relevant discipline obtained in a Bachelor course of least 6 semesters at a German university, or an equivalent degree from a German or foreign university or college. Relevant disciplines are social anthropology/*Ethnologie* and its equivalents (cultural anthropology, *anthropologie sociale*, *ethnologie*) or those that contain a

major component of these disciplines. Good knowledge of English is required.

DEGREE COURSE SCHEME
Total Credit Points: 120

Sem.	Focal courses	Regional specialisation
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 1 (15 CP)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cultural Foundations of Sociality</u></p> <p><i>Theories in Social Anthropology</i> (obligatory lecture series; 3 CP)</p> <p><i>Social Structure</i> (obligatory seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p>1 course selected from:</p> <p><i>Research Themes in Social Anthropology</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Psychiatry and Social Anthropology I</i> (optional seminar 6; CP)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 2 (15 CP)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regional Specialisation I</u></p> <p>2 courses selected from:</p> <p><i>Themes in the History and Social Anthropology of Southeast Asia</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Themes in the Social Anthropology of South Asia</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Themes in the Social Anthropology of Africa</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Themes in Social Anthropology: Other Regions</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Themes in the Social Anthropology of Trans-regional Spaces</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p>- <i>Alternative 2nd course</i> may be taken at an affiliated institute (6 CP)</p> <p><i>Non-European language</i> (obligatory; 3 CP)</p> <p>requirements: 1 essay (ca. 15 p.), 2 oral presentations, 1 language</p>

		examination
	requirements: 1 essay (ca. 15 pp.), 2 oral presentations	
2	<p>Module 3 (15 CP)</p> <p><u>Research Methods and Cultural Interaction</u></p> <p><i>Translocal Relations</i> (obligatory lecture series; 3 CP)</p> <p><i>Research Methods in Social Anthropology</i> (obligatory course; 6 CP)</p> <p>1 course selected from:</p> <p><i>Themes and Methods of research and intercultural communication</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Visual Anthropology I</i> (obligatory course; 6 CP)</p> <p><i>Psychiatry and Social Anthropology II</i> (optional seminar; 6 CP)</p> <p>requirements: 1 essay (ca. 15 pp.), 2 oral presentations</p>	<p>Module 4 (15 CP)</p> <p><u>Regional specialization II</u></p> <p>2 courses selected from Module 2</p> <p>requirements: 1 essay (ca. 15 pp.), 2 oral presentations</p>
3	Module 5 (30 CP)	
	<u>Field Research</u>	

Field Research – Reflections and Critical Assessment
(obligatory weekend course; 6 CP)

Visual Anthropology II (optional course; 1 CP)

Ethnographic Field Research (12 - 18 weeks)
(obligatory; 24 CP / if in combination with optional course *Visual Anthropology II*: 23 CP)

requirement: 1 research report (ca. 20 pp.)

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Module 6 (30 CP)

Colloquium

Master Thesis

INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY

Stadtstr. 21

Sprenger

48149 Münster

muenster.de

Tel.: 83-27311

Fax: 83-27313

<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Ethnologie>

CONTACT

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Guido

guidosprenger(at)uni-