

**Fieldwork in Psychiatry, Modul 1**  
**Mi. 14.00-16.00, 2.10 Institut für Ethnologie**  
**23.10.-25.2.**

This course provides you an overview of themes and challenges connected with doing fieldwork in Psychiatry. What does it mean to apply anthropological methods, e.g. participant observation, in psychiatric settings? How does doing fieldwork in an institution differ from for example doing fieldwork in a village?

We will explore the role of the researcher's emotions in the field. How can we responsibly deal with our reactions to the field site and our response to informants? And how does understanding our emotions/reactions can help us to create meaning out of the collected data?

The class includes a workshop with psychotherapist and anthropologist Marion Linska on 4<sup>th</sup> of December. In this session we explore how we can take care of ourselves and stay physically and mentally healthy while doing fieldwork, applying the method of participant observation in the field and collecting ethnographic data.

Finally we will read and compare extracts of different ethnographic studies of psychiatric institutions in various cultural contexts and decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will also discuss the question of how to implement ethics in fieldwork in psychiatric settings.

Those of you who are interested are also welcome to join me for attending the AGEM conference from 15<sup>th</sup> till 17<sup>th</sup> November (the conference language is German): "Stranger and Friend." [nach dem Buch(-Titel) von Hortense Powdermaker, 1966]: Der Platz langfristiger Feldforschungen in den Diskursen zur 'Global Health'/The Place of Long Term Anthropological Field Research for the Project of 'Global Health'.

**Credit Points:** 6 ECTS (*Workload*: On campus: 30hrs/ Private Study: 150hrs). The course constitutes an optional course of Module and belongs to the field of 'Social Anthropology and Psychiatry I'.

**Requirements:** Regular attendance (not more than two missed sessions), Presentation, Regular preparation (average 12.5 hrs per week) of readings is expected (in particular: think/note something down about the topic/question for the respective sessions given in the schedule below)

**E-Learning:** All the reading material and additional materials for our class you will find on the BSCW-Server (e-mail address given on the list of participants will be used)

## **Readings**

### **Anthropological Methods and the Challenges of Fieldwork in Psychiatry**

ROSENHAN, D.L. 1973, 'On Being Sane in Insane Places', *Science*, vol. 179, no. 4070, pp. 250-258.

HUNTER, C. L., D. LONG, et al. (2008). 'When the Field is a Ward or a Clinic: Hospital Ethnography.' Special Issue of Anthropology & Medicine, Guesteditors Cynthia L. Hunter, Debbie Long and Sjaak van der Geest 15(2): 71-78.

RHODES, L.A. 1989, 'The Anthropologist as Institutional Analyst', *Ethos*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 204-217.

## **Emotions in the Field**

DAVIES, James (2010). Introduction: Emotions in the Field. In: J. Davies & D. Spencer (eds.): *Emotions in the Field: The Psychology and Anthropology of Fieldwork Experience*. p. 1-31. Stanford: University Press.

SPENCER, Dimitrina (2010). Emotional Labour and Relational Observation in Anthropological Fieldwork. In: D. Spencer & J. Davies (eds.), *Anthropological Fieldwork – a relational process*. p. 1-47. Cambridge: Scholars Publishing.

LORIMER, Francine (2010): Using Emotion as a Form of Knowledge in a Psychiatric Fieldwork Setting. In: J. Davies & D. Spencer (eds.): *Emotions in the Field: The Psychology and Anthropology of Fieldwork Experience*. Stanford: University Press, 98-128.

## **‘Mad’ Ethnographies**

GOFFMAN, Erwing (1970): *Asylums. Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and other Inmates*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England u. a.: Penguin Books Ltd.

ESTROFF, S.E. (1985): *Making it Crazy*. An Ethnography of Psychiatric Clients in an American community. Univ. of California Pr, Berkeley [u.a.].

ADDLAKHA, R. (2008): *Deconstructing Mental Illness, An Ethnography of Psychiatry, Women, and the Family*, Zubaan, New Delhi.

DONGEN, Els van (2004): *Worlds of Psychotic People*. Wanders, ‘Bricoleurs’ and Strategists. London u. a.: Routledge.

## **Ethics in Anthropological Fieldwork**

SCHEPER-HUGHES, Nancy (1995): The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology. *Current Anthropology* 36 (3): 409-440.

DONGEN, Els van (1998): Strangers on terra Cognita. Authors of the Other in a Mental Hospital. *Anthropology & Medicine* 5(3): 279-293.

AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (2011 [1998]): Code of Ethics. In: Robben, Antonius C. M. G. and Jeffrey A. Sluka, *Ethnographic Fieldwork. An Anthropological Reader*. Oxford u.a.: Blackwell Publishing, 325-330.