



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



WEBINAR CONCLAVE

Recent Advances in Anthropological research

MAY 8-9, 2020
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



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Organising Committee

Dr. K.N.Saraswathy (Convener), Dr. R.P. Mitra, Dr. Avitoli G Zhimo, Dr. Vipin Gupta

Patron

Prof. P.C. Joshi
Head of the Department

Organizing Committee

Dr. K.N. Saraswathy (Convenor)

Dr. R.P. Mitra

Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo

Dr. Vipin Gupta

Online session hosts:

Apoorva Sharma

Kevingu Khate

Chongsing Shimrah

Vineet Chaudhary

Imnameren

Naveen Kumar

Book of abstracts

Compiled by

Eche Konyak

8th May 2020	
INAUGURAL SESSION	10:00AM – 10:30AM
Moderator	Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo
Welcome address	Dr. K.N.Saraswathy
Introduction to Conclave	Dr. R.P. Mitra
Address by the Head of Department	Prof. P.C. Joshi
SESSION 1 10:30AM – 11:45AM	Advances in Medical Anthropology and Public Health Research
Chair	Prof. P.C. Joshi
Discussant	Dr. Kiranmala Devi
Rapporteur	Arun Kumar & Debashmita Banerjee
<i>Presentation</i>	
Abhilasha Kapoor	Recent approaches in the management of diabetes mellitus.
Vineet Chaudhary	COVID-19 and Haemoglobinopathies in India: some reflections
Sohini Sinha	An anthropological understanding of the recent advances in the screening and treatment of post-partum depression.
SESSION 2: 11:45AM -1:00PM	Advances in Ethnography and Field-work Methods
Chair	Dr. Benrithung Murry
Discussant	Dr. Astha Bansal
Rapporteur	Krishna Kant & Sayak Chakraborty
<i>Presentation</i>	
Dr. Indrani Mukherjee	Fieldwork post Lockdown (Covid19): More Questions than Answers.
Somen Rath	Saora art through the lens of anthropological research: Trends & transitions.
Ankita Mehta	Towards Well-being: Fieldwork and Methodological Experiences.
SESSION 3 2:00PM -3:30PM	Advances in Bio-chemical Genetics; Molecular Anthropology; Forensic Science
Chair	Dr. P.R.Mondal
Discussant	Ms. Ayesha Parveen
Rapporteur	Harsh Vats & Sweta Prasad
<i>Presentations</i>	
Imnameren Longkumer	Global 5-methylcytosine affects blood glucose level through DNA hypomethylation: A cross-sectional study among a rural population from North India.

Sunanda Rajkumari	The association of FTO rs9939609 gene polymorphism with Metabolic syndrome among Liangmai and Mizo population of Manipur, India.
Manisha kharaliya	Electrocardiogram - An Emerging Era in Biometrics
Monika Kulshreshtha	Prevalence of musculoskeletal injuries among kathak dancers
SESSION 4: 3:30PM -5:00PM	Advances in Anthropology of Development; Gender Studies
Chair	Dr. Mitashree Srivastava
Discussant	Dr. Neli Daili
Rapporteur	Suryasnata Mazumder & Shardhanjali Sinha
<i>Presentations</i>	
Sarika Negi	Spatial Approaches and Anthropology
Kanika Sharan	The dichotomy of public and private space in the village of Raghunathpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan.
Saptarshi Bairagi	Understanding the representation of queer culture through LGBTQIA+ Pride movement in India: A multi-sited ethnography
Eche Wangnyu Konyak	Exploring the approach of Visuality-Materiality to the study of Dress among the Konyak of Nagaland
9th May 2020 (Saturday)	
SESSION 5: 10:00AM to 11:30AM	Advances in Political Anthropology, Tribal Studies and Environmental anthropology
Chair	Dr. M. Kennedy Singh
Discussant	Dr. Indrani Mukherjee
Rapporteur	Sudipta Dutta & Apoorva Sharma
<i>Presentations</i>	
Krishna Kant Yadav (Phd)	Panchayati Raj and its role in the politics of rural development
Richa Joshi	The Role and Position of Women in Relation to Land : A Case Study among the Tharu in Uttarakhand
Shankarjyoti Saikia	Bourgeois Environmentalism vis-à-vis Urban Ecology: Reflections of Praxis in Delhi
SESSION 6: 11:30AM-1:00PM	Advances in Palaeontology; Physiological anthropology; Public Health
Chair	Dr. Manoj K. Singh
Discussant	Dr. Shivani Chandel
Rapporteur	Sohini Sinha & Hansdeep Kaur Kohli

<i>Presentations</i>	
Sayak Chakraborty	The Denisovans' have joined the chat: The Hominid at the forefront of modern palaeoanthropology.
Kevingu Khate	Association of obesity with the prevalence of hypertension among Bhil tribal population from Gujarat, India.
Shagufta Naaz Ansari	Contribution of Anthropology to Global Mental Health: A SWOT Analysis
Sukhmani Kaur	Blood pressure and handgrip strength
SESSION 7: 2:00PM-3:30PM	Advances in Ethnography and Field-work Methods
Chair	Dr. Chakraverti Mahajan
Discussant	Mr. Rajeev
Rapporteur	Somen Rath & Navjot Kamboj
<i>Presentations</i>	
Rashmi Patel	Entering the Field: Towards the Ethnography of an Infertility Clinic.
Harmeet Kaur	Understanding Migration from the Lens of Qualitative Methods.
Subhradeep Pathak	Reverence through experience: Traversing the life story of a priest in a Vaishnava shrine.
Suryasnata Mazumder	Advances in Ethnography.
VALEDICTORY SESSION 3:30PM	
Address	Head of the Department
Rapporteurs' report	Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo
Vote of thanks	Dr. K.N.Saraswathy

Abstracts

SESSION 1

Advances in Medical Anthropology and Public Health Research

Recent approaches in the management of diabetes mellitus

Abhilasha Kapoor, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

The prevalence of diabetes mellitus has been increasing exponentially. Diabetes mellitus and its associated complications are considered as global public health problems. So there is need to look into novel approaches to prevent and manage diabetes. Digital health technologies have enhanced diabetes prevention and management. Recent e-health interventions like insulin management applications, self-management applications, wearable blood glucose meters, virtual health coaching, automated text messages etc. are quite impactful in targeting diabetes. This study will review the efficacy of these digital mobile health tools in supporting the care and enhancing the quality of life of patients with diabetes mellitus.

COVID-19 and Haemoglobinopathies in India: Some Reflections

Vineet Chaudhary, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

While the entire world is facing the sting of COVID-19, some groups of people are more vulnerable than others, both biologically and socially. One such group is people with haemoglobin disorders. Haemoglobinopathies like sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia etc. make people more susceptible to various bacterial and viral infections, therefore, it can be hypothesized that COVID-19 infection in people with haemoglobin disorders would be more severe and fatal than general population. Also, the most severe types of haemoglobin disorders are predominantly prevalent in tropical countries of Africa and Asia including India, which are middle income and low income countries, where availability of advanced healthcare facilities are limited. Thus, poor people with haemoglobinopathies living in these regions are expected to face triple challenge of COVID-19, haemoglobin disorders and dilapidated healthcare. In India, prevalence of haemoglobin disorder is higher in tribal population. If the pandemic enters into the tribal areas, the already marginalized section of population may have to face the tripartite struggle. Hence to increase our preparedness for this probable challenges, it is necessary to determine the correlation between the severity of COVID-19 infection and abnormal haemoglobin (HbS, HbE, HbC, HbD & thalassemia) along with the effect of various therapeutic interventions (BCG vaccination, Hydroxychloroquine) on the manifestation of the severity of the infection.

An Anthropological Understanding of the Recent Advances in The Screening And Treatment Of Post-Partum Depression

Sohini Sinha, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

Post-partum depression is a period of increased vulnerabilities comprising of frequent mood disorders, anxiety and depression among women that usually begins within 4 weeks of

childbirth. Early recognition by various screening methods and treatment are quintessential for the well-being of the mother as well as the baby. Universal screening of depressive symptoms in the pregnant and post-partum women as recommended should be amalgamated with psychiatric follow-up, care and support systems. These evidence based treatments are multimodal in nature accounting pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy, support and education for reassuring, clinical management and treatment of depression. A much debated issue is regarding the use of the term postpartum or peripartum as going by the terminology it indicates the treatment procedure of depressive episodes that mostly begin during the pregnancy but observed much later in the post- partum period. There is a lot of ongoing debate on the use of antidepressants and its effects on pregnancy, birth and neonatal outcomes for which the results are still being contested. There are some recent scientific evidences which states how epigenetic biomarkers of post-partum depression help in recognizing women vulnerable for the illness. There is a growing need for psychiatric treatment because of the stigma associated with the illness and its treatment efficacy thus equipping the front line health workers. The health care specialists and referral sources should be proliferated to psychiatrically manage them. It is utmost necessary to prevent post- partum depression rather than curing one after it has developed. As Robkis (2017), correctly aggregates it as the “understanding of the epidemiological patterns and clinical manifestation of perinatal mood disorders” via screening at an earlier stage to effectively treat and do away with it. Thus anthropological interventions could be beneficial in having a holistic understanding of the illness.

SESSION 2

Advances in Ethnography and Field-work Methods

Fieldwork post Lockdown (Covid19): More Questions than Answers

Dr. Indrani Mukherjee, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

The present day (Covid 19) infection prevention protocol is such that it raises significant concerns in terms of the culture of fieldwork. While we are thinking of methodological advances in Anthropology, we might actually be experiencing a very strong blow to the very foundation of our discipline, ‘fieldwork’. How will we build interpersonal relations in the field with a mask on our face? How do you share and exchange confidences from the distance of a meter? How do you express empathy through a gloved hand? How do you build rapport without the sharing of food and water? When go back to the ‘field’ it will not be a pre and post situation, but (presumably) a changed reality.

Saora art through the lens of anthropological research: Trends & transitions

Somen Rath, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

When Julian Klein (2010) said, “We should ask, when is research artistic?” rather than “what is art research?”; he meant more than the anthropology of art that has been traditionally studied by many eminent anthropologists and scholars. The present paper discusses the changing trends in approaches to anthropology of art, from ethnography to refunctioned ethnography in the context of Saora art, more popularly known as ‘*Iditals*’. The transitions among the art themes, artists and the cognitive corpus in Saora art necessitates an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach which must break free from the sealed vaults of orthodox research methods.

Towards Well-being: Fieldwork and Methodological Experiences

Ankita Mehta, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

Well-being is a multifactorial concept based on several parameters through this study social well-being of migrant workers is sought and its reliance on physical and economic well-being. This study is conducted on female labour at construction sites, the population being migrant, the study is a multi-sited ethnography where the fieldwork is done at destination site (Delhi) and one of the sites of origin (village Khadowara, Uttar Pradesh). It is a qualitative study based on the narratives of people. Through this study, the aim is to understand the local conception of well-being and negotiation adopted by the people. This paper reveals fieldwork experience of the researcher, methodologies adopted and challenges faced.

SESSION 3

Advances in Bio-Medical Genetics; Molecular Anthropology; Forensic Anthropology

Global 5-methylcytosine affects blood glucose level through DNA hypomethylation: A cross-sectional study among a rural population from North India

Innameren Longkumer, PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Hyperglycemia is a chronic metabolic disorder that develops due to an interplay of genetic, lifestyle, and environmental factors. It has been associated with dyslipidemia and obesity in the present population. Further in this study, we hypothesize that hyperglycemia is mediated by alterations in global DNA methylation, which recently has become the most widely studied epigenetic mechanism. We analysed 5-methylcytosine (5mC) level from peripheral blood DNA in 508 Jat individuals residing in Haryana. Median distribution of 5mC level revealed a significant global DNA hypomethylation in elevated blood glucose (0.91) as compared to normal blood glucose (0.64) [$p < 0.05$]. Further, linear regression analysis showed a significant inverse association of 5-mC level with elevated blood glucose in the present population.

The Association of FTO rs9939609 Gene Polymorphism with Metabolic Syndrome among Liangmai and Mizo population of Manipur, India.

Sunanda Rajkumari, PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

Metabolic syndrome (MetS), an atherosclerotic disease precursor defined by the National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III as the clustering of 3 or more cardiovascular metabolic risk factors which includes abnormal values for waist circumference, blood pressure, fasting blood glucose, HDL cholesterol, and triglycerides. Association between FTO rs9939609 gene polymorphism and MetS have been reported in many studies. The present study aims to understand the association of FTO rs9939609 polymorphism among two different Mendelian populations. The frequency distribution of mutant A allele of FTO rs9939609 polymorphism in the form of TA and AA was found to be higher among MetS case group of Mizo population than in Liangmai population, though not statistically significant. However, FTO rs9939609 polymorphism was not found to have any significant association with MetS in both the study population groups.

Electrocardiogram - An Emerging Era in Biometrics

Manisha kharaliya, M.phill, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Biometric recognition is gradually becoming a part of our daily lives, as it replaces common identification and access control systems based on keys, cards, codes, or passwords. While these can be lost, copied, or stolen, biometric systems are based on intrinsic traits that are always with the person and ensure the correspondence between the subject's and the credential's identities. The electrocardiogram (ECG), resulting from the electrical conduction through the heart needed for its contraction, is one of the most recent traits to be explored for biometric purposes. Despite being far from as developed or widespread as face or fingerprint biometrics, the ECG offers unique advantages in terms of universality, uniqueness, permanence, and aliveness assurance that attest its potential for the recognition of individuals. Objectives: To study importance and advantage of electrocardiogram (ECG) in biometrics for forensic examination. Methodology: 20 research papers were studied, out of which 12 were selected for the present study through various sites like Pubmed, Researchgate, Scopus and Science Direct using words like advancement in biometrics, importance of biometrics in forensic science, electrocardiogram in biometrics and ECG based human authentication. Biometric authentication systems usually run in two modes - Identification mode: identification is performed by searching in an archive for a compatible template. It is, therefore, to identify a person whose identity is not necessarily known a priori. Verification mode (authentication mode): where the system validates a person's identity by comparing the captured biometric characteristic with the biometric template of the claimed individual, which is stored in the system database.

Prevalence of Musculoskeletal Injuries among Kathak Dancers

Monika Kulshreshtha, PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi

Kathak is an Indian classical dance form which has become increasingly popular among youngsters. The prevalence and causes of injuries among Kathak dancers have remained unexplored till now. The present study is an attempt to understand the incidence and risk factors of musculoskeletal injuries among Kathak dancers. Prevalence of musculoskeletal injuries among the studied participants was found to be 35.4%. Furthermore, it was found that there was a significant relationship between occurrence of injuries with the repetitive movements, fatigue, type of dance floor and warm up-cool down sessions.

SESSION 4

Advances in Anthropology of Development; Gender Studies

Spatial approach and Anthropology

Sarika Negi, Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

The word 'Spatial' has strictly has been an organic part of geographer's work and expression. Although when we read the seminal works in anthropology, it is evident that they were engaged in studying societies and socio- cultural phenomena in geographic spaces. The early explorations of 'the other' were revolving around understanding intersect between physical as well as social spaces and culture. Low (2011) argued that the lens of space and place are powerful tools for uncovering injustice and social exclusion (p. 391). This paper focuses on

trajectory of spatial approach in anthropology and its relevance in exploring contemporary globalized and urbanized world, and social inequalities within.

The dichotomy of public and private space in the village of Raghunathpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Kanika Sharan, PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

This paper will explore the way gender and space are produced in everyday life of women belongs to the Bhil community in the village of Raghunathpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan. This paper will explain the priori categories of gendered space i.e. public and private which are socially and culturally defined and will also provide some insights on the impact of social relationships, hierarchies and power which creates hindrance in everyday life of Bhil women. The paper will focus on the organization of space in the village, the practice of veiling and how this practice differs across communities, class and caste. The paper will also explore the kinship relations of married women in relation to both the spaces, which is crucial for the understanding of the veil system and also how they negotiate their position and how different spaces are subjectively experienced by women. The ethnography method (interviews, case studies, life Histories etc.) were used for the data collection purpose.

Understanding the representation of queer culture through LGBTQIA+ Pride movement in India: A multi-sited ethnography.

Saptarshi Bairagi, M.phill, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Introduction: In the 1990s, the term "queer" gained new acceptance within poststructuralist/postmodernist thought. This was an attempt to move away from reproducing the heterosexist binary (heterosexual normativity) of heterosexual and homosexual. **Methodology:** The recent advancement of this study is laying in its theory and methodology which is based on Queer theory and Queer Methods, which is enriched by the contributions of various scholars from different fields.

Results & Discussion: In India, the judgment of SC in 2018, which removed the IPC 377, decriminalized the homosexuality, gives freedom of existence and expression of identity to the LGBTQ people constitutionally. Research among the Queer in this post 377 periods is become a new field for anthropologist. It raises the new questions like, what does it mean for the concept of third identity? How the shape of the third identity is changing due to the spectrum of gender and sexuality? How the society is reacting towards the Queer? Etc.

Conclusion: This study will further unfold the Queer related issues in post 377 eras in India, which is a new area for Anthropologist to explore.

Exploring the approach of Visuality-Materiality to the Study of Dress among the Konyak of Nagaland

Eche Wangnyu, PhD, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

This paper seeks to explore and understand the visuality-materiality approach to the study of Dress among the Konyak of Nagaland. The study of materiality is not a new thought in the discipline of anthropology but the method of visuality-materiality can be seen as an emerging

trend in researches across different disciplines. The author seeks to argue against the usage of visual tools merely as an appendage or an illustration of various studies. Visual tools in itself can be an integral part of the society. The second part of the paper attempts to look at auto-ethnography as a deviation from colonial writings of the so-called “other” culture and also to comprehend the notion of empathy and shared language in auto-ethnography.

SESSION 5

Advances in Political Anthropology, Tribal Studies and Environmental Anthropology

Panchayati Raj and its role in the politics of rural development

Krishna Kant Yadav, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Panchayati Raj has emerged as one of the strongest institution in the process of decentralisation of democratic practices at lower levels of administration. They play a pivotal role in the implementation of both state and central government policies at village level. Many times, the policies meant for development result in causation of more suffering. Similarly, the reservation for scheduled tribes and women in panchayat elections seems to be failed in empowering them both as the dominant Caste groups yet practice their hegemonic power in the village politics. The paper explore the paradoxes of implementation of government policies and their consequent socio-economic changes in a multi ethnic village of Rajasthan. Data was collected using observation, in depth interviews and survey method.

The finding suggests that the Bhil Gameti, a scheduled tribe in the village, has been most impacted by the development programmes which compelled them to lose their agricultural land and livelihood in land acquisition and made them the victims of environmental degradation and everyday politics. Through the assessment of Swacch Bharat mission and Pradhanmantri Ujjwala Yojna, the paper identifies the problems of, and fault in centralised and target based development schemes.

The Role and Position of Women in Relation to Land: A Case Study among the Tharu in Uttarakhand

Richa Joshi, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Land institutions constitute the fundamental social and economic arrangements in working and benefiting from land. Land is the most integrating asset to represent the identity and status of an individual in a traditional community. Therefore, it is not sold but rather passed on to the next generation, in order to satisfy and secure the economic and social needs of the traditional community. The central question of this paper revolves around the social arrangements and negotiations in relation to land between men and women. Empirically examining the inheritance of land practices and how women keep negotiating their position and status in the traditional society of the Tharu, who are largely populated in the Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand. The different case studies reflect on the de jure and de facto entitlement to land, the inheritance patterns, the user rights for men and women provided through legal and through customary practices, and the resulting changes in the social position of women embedded in the kinship and marital status.

Bourgeois Environmentalism vis-à-vis Urban Ecology: Reflections of Praxis in Delhi
Shankarjyoti Saikia, M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

In her recent work entitled, “The Uncivil City: Ecology, Equity and the Commons in Delhi” (2020), Amita Baviskar unfurls the ways in which the processes entailing city life of Delhi have come to be seen as being ‘uncivil’. By invoking discussions on the social construction of the ‘public’, on the structural dynamics imbued in providing legitimacy to questions of national prestige and integrity, and in the actions taken towards the streamlining of decision-making in the name of ‘ecology’ and the ‘environment’, her work touches upon the subtleties that make for an ‘uncivil’ city. In its manifest outcomes, as well as through its latent underpinnings, Baviskar’s work shows the dynamics of what she calls – Bourgeois Environmentalism – at play in the mundane aspects of the ‘uncivil’ city life of Delhi. This paper shall attempt to demonstrate what Baviskar’s notion of “Bourgeois Environmentalism” is and how it shall serve to offer its contributions towards the sub-discipline of Environmental Anthropology.

SESSION 6

Advances in Palaeontology; Physiological Anthropology; Public Health

The “Denisovans” Have Joined the Chat: The Hominid at the Forefront of Modern Palaeoanthropology

Sayak Chakraborty, M.Phil, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

About a decade ago, the discovery of a new hominid was announced, which has gone on to shape much of palaeoanthropology in recent times. Nicknamed the “Denisovans” after the cave in Russia where their fossil remains were discovered, these individuals represent a unique lineage, different from *Homo erectus*, Neanderthals and modern humans, and yet had coexisted with them during middle and late Pleistocene. Only a few fragmentary fossils of the Denisovans are known until now. So there is still uncertainty regarding their taxonomy, morphology and cultural characteristics. However, genetic analyses of their fossils have shown that many modern human populations have derived some ancestry, and also some adaptive traits, from them.

Association of Obesity with the Prevalence of Hypertension among Bhil tribal population from Gujarat, India

Kevingu Khate, Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Previously, it was thought that obesity was a disorder of affluent, rich and urban populations and tribal populations rarely suffer from it. However, due to recent nutritional and epidemiological transitions, tribal populations have been burdened with both undernutrition and obesity, which when combined, becomes a deadly dose for future cardiovascular events. The present study thus aims to capture the changing trends in tribal lifestyle and associate with the high prevalence of hypertension. Anthropometric and physiological variables were collected from 233 adult Bhil tribal individuals from Gujarat. Morbidly high WHtR was found to pose 3.68 fold increased risk for hypertension in this population. Interestingly, both

underweight in the form of BMI and WHtR posed significant reduced risk for hypertension [0.25 90.12-0.55); 0.29 (0.09-0.95); p trend <0.05].

Contribution of Anthropology to Global Mental Health: A SWOT Analysis

Shagufta Naaz Ansari, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Global mental health movement has helped in deeper understanding of mental health in both developing and developed countries. Anthropologists have raised a range of concerns about the increasing field of global mental health. Their critiques encourage reflection about practice. Anthropological theories and methods can enormously contribute in generation of empirical data in the field of mental health worldwide. Therefore, the present paper examines the contribution of anthropology in the global mental health using a SWOT analysis of strength, weakness, opportunities and threats.

Blood Pressure and Handgrip Strength

Sukhmani Kaur, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

High blood pressure contributes to the burden of heart disease, kidney failure, stroke, premature mortality and disability. On the other hand, handgrip strength is often used as a measure for muscular strength. Studies reported that isometric handgrip resistance exercise is an effective exercise to lower resting blood pressure in both normotensive and hypertensive individuals. The present study aims to examine the relationship of handgrip strength to blood pressure among adults of Sikh community. Blood pressure measurements and hand grip strength were measured according to the standard protocols. The findings of the current study suggest that handgrip strength is positively correlated with blood pressure.

SESSION 7

Advances in Ethnography and Field-work Methods

Entering the Field: Towards the Ethnography of an Infertility Clinic

Rashmi Patel, PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

The paper is based upon a month long fieldwork in Lucknow city of Uttar Pradesh and discusses the challenges of conducting fieldwork in privately owned infertility clinics. Working in such field sites often requires overcoming the complications of gaining access, dealing with the gate-keepers, structures of power and hierarchy. These methodological challenges necessitate the researcher to engage in onsite negotiations and question the academically established notions of ethical research. The present paper presents insights into the experience of conducting research in a highly monitored and controlled medical environment and attempts to deliberate upon the ways to overcome such challenges.

Understanding Migration from the Lens of Qualitative Methods

Harmeet Kaur, PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Accelerated and diversified movement of millions of people across the border have given more relevance to phenomenon of migration in the social sciences since 1960s. Migration being a highly interdisciplinary and complex issue involves the use of many qualitative and quantitative methods, so that it can be studied intensively. Anthropologists are trained in selecting their methods to carry out their field work efficiently. This paper will throw light on various qualitative methods which are important to study migration particularly. It will further discuss that how these methods are used in my research work to study internal migration of people in Delhi.

Reverence through experience: Traversing the life story of a priest in a Vaishnava shrine

Subhradeep Pathak, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Life history is a collection of stories of an individual's life. In ethnography such stories give insight into the personal experience and motives of the actors. My attempt is to tell the story of a priest in a Vaishnava shrine by collecting memories and presenting them in a coherent manner. The aim is to show the significance of life history method of data collection in the field as it contextualises the action of individuals to their way of life.

Advances in Ethnography

Suryasnata Mazumder, MPhil, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Ethnography has existed as an indispensable part of anthropology for decades. With the changing times, the ethnography has changed its forms to accommodate itself within the discipline and extended its boundaries to other disciplines as well. Nowadays, it appears to be of increasing value to the academic and non-academic institutions. This paper focuses on the new trends in ethnography in the contemporary world starting from virtual ethnography, focusing on offline and online social networking and the private and public boundaries; strategic ethnography; visual ethnography to sensory ethnography. The concept of 'Participant Audition' that paves a way forth into the community in action with special emphasis on language will be discussed. Ethnographies used in studying 'Anthropology of Night', 'Anthropology of Time and Space', and 'Anthropology of Social Media', focuses on recent trends in ethnography. This again sets forth how the classic ethnography has expanded its boundaries going beyond the tribal studies keeping the basic essence of anthropology intact in the contemporary world where the world has digitalised itself. New concepts like 'Design Ethnography' and 'Cyborg Anthropology' will be an essential part of this paper. Besides, focus on emotional vulnerabilities of the informants as a part of ethnography in contemporary times will be taken into special consideration.