Religionising Fieldwork and Fieldworking Religion

Hermeneutics of the Engagement between Religion and Research Methodologies in the Field

SOAS, Dept. Study of Religions
Monday 3rd – Tuesday 4th November 2008

Convenors:
James Kapalo, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions
Stefania Travagnin, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions
Programme

Monday 3rd November
SOAS, College Main Building, Room G3

09:30: Registration

10:30: Opening Remarks
Prof. Paul Gifford, SOAS, Dept. Study of Religions

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 Panel 1: Animating Texts

Chair: Prof. Paul Gifford, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions

Presenters:

- Paul Tremlett, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions:
  Animated Texts: Case Studies from the Lowland Christian Philippines

- James Kapalo, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions:
  Translating and Transacting Texts: Alternative scripture amongst the Gagauz of Moldova

Discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Panel 2: Reading Performance

Chair: Prof. Stephan Feuchtwang, London School of Economics, Dept. of Anthropology

Presenters:

- Nadège Mézié, Paris5-René Descartes-La Sorbonne, Department of Anthropology:
  “Oni, se kreyèn mwen ye” (“Yes, I am christian”), methodological falsehood on the fieldwork

- Jane Cameron, University of Edinburgh, Department of Religious Studies:
  Imaging Buddhism in Maharashtra: a collaborative methodology

- Gwen Heaner, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions
  Fieldwork deliverance rituals in a Liberian Pentecostal Ministry. The surprising benefits of embracing your ‘otherness’ while taking part on religious performance

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 Open Discussion
19:00 Dinner for Chairs and Presenters

**Tuesday 4th November**

SOAS, College Main Building, Room G3

09:00-09:30: Registration

**09:30 Panel 3: Engaging Institutions**

**Chair:** Prof. Jim Beckford, University of Warwick, Department of Sociology

**Presenters:**

- Richard Irvine, University of Cambridge, Department of Social Anthropology:
  
  *The experience of ethnographic fieldwork in an English Benedictine monastery: Not Playing at being a monk*

- Catherine Duce, Heythrop College University of London, ARCS Fieldworker:
  
  *The messy “surprises” of fieldwork: engaging London’s religious institutions in cross-disciplinary action research*

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 Open Discussion

13:00: Lunch

**14:00 Panel 4: Representing Persons**

**Chair:** Dr. Cosimo Zene, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions

**Presenters:**

- Anne Mette Fisker-Nielsen, SOAS, Department of Anthropology and Sociology:
  
  *Fieldworking Religion: the Making of Representations of the Religious Adherent Engaged in Politics*

- Cordula Weisskoeppel, University of Bremen, Department of Cultural Studies
  
  *Playing with Similarities and Differences: Ethnographic Encounters in a German-Sudanese Sufi Brotherhood*

- Tullio Lobetti, SOAS, Department of the Study of Religions
  
  *Fieldwork and pain. Issues in field research methodologies involving extreme field circumstances*

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 Open Discussion

17:00 Concluding Remarks