

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:
“Oui, 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