

# Clinically applied anthropology I: Critical perspectives on mental health theory and practice in India

## Overview

This stimulating and provocative module is an advanced course that highlights the importance of critical and cultural perspectives in dealing with public mental health challenges in working with those who live at the 'margins' of society in India.

The course is unique in that it will bring clinicians and social scientists together - allowing for both dialogue and mutual learning. It aims to redress the consequences of applying a minority Euro-American psychiatry to the majority world. This will include consideration of historical & contemporary, theoretical and applied, issues. Students will learn how to unpack presumed universal mental categories such as emotion and cognition as applicable in India. Through illustrative case studies and clinical vignettes, the course will critically examine and attempt to reformulate received theories in the field of marginality and mental health to address outcomes of relevance to social scientists, clinicians and the community. The focus of the course will be on close engagement with specific projects that participants are involved in, whether as researchers or practitioners or development specialists. Through this course, participants will get a glimpse into the cultural variations in the field of mental health, with specific emphasis on South Asia in general and India in particular. Key questions that will be addressed in the course include: 1) *How do we bridge academic engagement and applied work in mental health research and practice at the margins of society?* 2) *What specific approaches can be drawn from anthropology for application in mental health research and practice?* Readings will include case studies from the field, contemporary research in cultural psychiatry, medical anthropology, and public health. The course will be taught through didactic seminars, video-films, skills based workshops and small group exercises.

### **The primary objectives of the course are as follows:**

1. Provide exposure to critical and cultural perspectives in mental health and marginality in India
2. Kick start crucial dialogues between social scientists and mental health clinicians
3. Encourage participants to learn to interrogate existing theory and practice in mental health and wellbeing at the margins of society
4. Enable participants to develop greater sensitivity to cultural issues in mental health
5. Illustrate the applicability of the cultural formulation technique
6. Build confidence and capacity among practitioners and development specialists to engage in culturally sensitive practice

<b>Dates</b>	<b>A: Clinically applied anthropology I: November 1 – November 8, 2018</b> <b>Number of participants for the course will be limited to 30.</b>
<b>Who can Attend</b>	<p>a) M.Phil./ Ph.D. students of social science and mental health who are enrolled in research based masters or doctoral programs focusing on the interface of social science and mental health in India.</p> <p>b) Early career faculty members from academic institutions in India.</p> <p>c) Social scientists from other agencies or research institutes in India.</p> <p>d) Individuals working in the development sector in the field of public health, mental health, social policy.</p> <p>e) Mental health practitioners.</p>
<b>Fees</b>	<p>The participation fees for taking the course is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants from abroad: USD 250</li> <li>• Students from India and South Asia: 2000 INR</li> <li>• Participants from academic and government institutes: 7000 + 1260 (18% GST) = 8260 INR*</li> <li>• Working professionals: 9000 + 1620 (18% GST) = 10620 INR*</li> </ul> <p>Registration fee includes access to attend all lectures and tutorials, course materials, wi-fi, tea/coffee and water for all five days. For hostel accommodation on sharing basis and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), participants need to pay additional fee of 5000 INR for all days. For hotel accommodation, please write to the coordinator directly.</p> <p>* Note: 18% GST taxes are applicable on registration fee</p>

## The Faculty



*Playing music with the manual scavenging community converted to Dalit Avataris - singing songs of liberation from oppression*

Dr. Sushrut Jadhav is Senior Lecturer in Cross-cultural Psychiatry, UCL; Consultant Psychiatrist at Focus Camden Homeless Outreach Services, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK; Co-director of UCL Cultural Consultation Service for Staff & Students, and Founding Editor, Anthropology and Medicine journal (Taylor & Francis, UK).

His current teaching and research interests focus on mental health at the margins across cultures, with a focus on India. Dr. Jadhav pioneered the Bloomsbury Cultural Formulation Interview, a clinical ethnographic technique to better engage with people suffering from mental illness across cultures. He is also Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, SOAS, London, UK.

## Course Coordinator

Dr. Shubha Ranganathan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Her work is broadly located at the interface of culture, gender and psychology, particularly with reference to issues of women's health and illness. Her research is interdisciplinary, drawing on the fields of medical anthropology, gender studies, and alternate paradigms within psychology such as critical psychology. She has been engaged in explorations of local practices of healing among marginalized groups, carrying out ethnographic studies of phenomena such as spirit possession, trance, and indigenous healing. In the area of mental health and psychosocial disabilities, her research is framed by critical perspectives, focuses on lived experiences and narratives of people presumed to be 'abnormal' or 'different'.

