



university of
 groningen

University of Groningen Summer Schools 2015

Indian Tribal Cultures

*Studying their life-worlds, doing
 fieldwork & writing ethnographies*

29 June – 3 July 2015
 Groningen, the Netherlands

www.rug.nl/summerschools





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> Summer school description <

“Tribe” is an administrative category in India comprising some 100 million people. Politically and academically it is a contested concept. When it comes to the tribal people of India a lot has been written about their alleged backwardness and about politics, much less about their cultures based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork.

Our three-fold focus will be the study of tribal cultures, how ethnographic fieldwork has been and can be done and how it can be presented in writing. We will, firstly, present and discuss the

worldviews, rituals and social forms of selected Indian tribal societies. Second, we will discuss the complex process of doing fieldwork, its modes, challenges, chances and problems. Finally, we will reflect on how to write about these cultures and our experience with these cultures.

Four anthropologists will present their work and discuss the three aspects above with the students. All of them have done extensive fieldwork among such communities and are concerned with questions of methodology and writing. Piers Vitebsky (Cambridge) is the most experienced of the four. He began his fieldwork among the Sora in the 1970s on their shamanistic dialogues with their dead. He later worked on issues of cultural change and conversion of the Sora to Christianity. Lea Schulte-Droesch (Groningen) very recently conducted fieldwork among the Santal and is currently completing her PhD on ritual and place-making. Erik de Maaker (Leiden) and Peter Berger (Groningen) worked among the Garo and Gadaba respectively, especially on such themes as ritual, death, exchange and kinship.

> **Academic coordinator**

Dr. Peter Berger

> **Fee**

€250 (excluding housing)

> **Who is it for?**

MA, PhD, Post-Doc who are interested to do research on Indian tribal cultures or who have already started their research

> **Language of instruction**

English

> **Credits/Certificate**

3 EC + certificate of attendance

> **Application deadline**

1 May 2015

> **More information**

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