Anthropologies of Mental Health and Illness
Jun-Prof. Dr. Thomas Stodulka

Thursdays, 10-12
Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin
Seminar room, Landoltweg 9-11, 14195 Berlin
Winter term (WS) 2016/17
Office hours: Wednesdays, 12 – 2pm

In this course, we will draw upon readings from psychological anthropology, transcultural psychiatry and science studies to examine mental health and illness with regards to subjective experiences, social relationships and cultural configurations of diagnosis and healing. Sessions will focus on cross-cultural variations of mental health and illness with a special interest on the experience and practices of researchers and therapists in clinical and non-clinical settings.

Active participation (‘aktive Teilnahme’) entails active discussion, moderation and response papers. Examination requirements (‘Prüfungsleistung’) include either writing three essays (5 pages) or a paper (‘Hausarbeit’, 15-20 pages).

1- 20.04. Psychological Anthropology and Global Mental Health
Video: Tanya Luhrmann - Making Psychological Anthropology Relevant to Global Mental Health; https://vimeo.com/14555569

2- 04.05. Anthropology and Transcultural Psychiatry

3- 11.05. Culture, Experience and Subjectivity
4- 18.05. Narrative and Cognitive Approaches


5- 01.06. Critical Psychology, Neuroscience and Cultural Phenomenology

Video: Laurence Kirmayer: Critical Neuroscience; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKTeELT2Eu


6- 08.06. ‘Culture Bound Syndromes’ and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)


7- 15.06. The Pharmaceutical Self


8- 22.06. Researchers, Psychiatry and Psychiatrists


9- 29.06. Mental Illness in Indonesia


10-06.07. Schizophrenia and voice-hearing


11-13.07. Healing practices beyond the clinic


12-20.07. Happiness and Well-being


Further Reading


