

Anthropologist and/or Practitioner?:

Plural ontologies in the worlds of Mindfulness and Coaching

July 15th, 14:00-17:30

Bldg. 10, room 301, Sophia University, Yotsuya Campus

This interactive workshop explores how two anthropologists are enacting plural identities and ontologies in their research and practice. How do anthropologists juggle identities and ontologies inside and outside the 'field' - particularly when the field increasingly becomes merged with one's profession/expertise? What can the worlds of mindfulness and coaching teach us about how to expand and explore the world of anthropological scholarship in different ways?

We invite participants who are interested in anthropological methods, native anthropology, and/or in mindfulness and coaching - to share their experiences and ideas. We hope to consider questions of 'going native', of ontological commitment and authenticity, and of bringing anthropological perspectives into the world of coaching and mindfulness. We are interested in ways of presenting, writing, and engaging with knowledge that embody and that open up plural ways of being in the world.

This event is organized by Professor David H. SLATER (FLA)

Presentations. 14:00-15:30

- Yuki Imoto, Keio University, Japan.
- Hiroki Ichinose, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Panel Discussion: 15:45-16:45

Discussants:

- Sachiko Horiguchi, Temple University
- Yi Zhu, Tsukuba University

General Discussion: 16:45-17:30

Lecture in English / No RSVP required

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presentations

The ontological sway between practitioner and anthropologist – researching mindfulness, contemplative education and ethnography.

Yuki Imoto, Keio University, Japan

This presentation aims to express the ongoing dilemma and navigation process of an anthropologist who goes back and forth between 'native' and 'other', or 'learned' and 'novice' positionings and ways of being. Between 2017-2018, I conducted anthropological fieldwork in a number of mindfulness-based educational spaces in the Bay Area. After returning to Japan in 2018, I have continued to conduct research on how 'mindfulness' is being received, experienced, and discussed in the Japanese context through interaction with 'Western' developments. I am also becoming involved in introducing or even co-teaching 'mindfulness'. Through reflecting on the process of my increased involvement and consequent transformations in the field, I seek to identify the multiple possible connections between mindfulness, contemplation, ethnography and myself– using first, second and third-person approaches (a combination of narrative, performative workshop and socio-cultural analysis). I hope to thus engage in dialogue with researchers who transgress boundaries of academic scholarship in applied and/or implicit ways.

Deeply Engaged and Embedded in the Field: Ontological Shift and/or Drift between a "Coaching Researcher" and a "Coach/Workshop Facilitator"

Hiroki Ichinose, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Ethnographic research in a business context, especially when it attempts to explore an emerging field, may pose a tricky situation: an ethnographer (who is deemed to have studied the subject) may be seen and authorized as a "learned expert", and expected to take a position of authority in the community. In consequence, the research is forced to take a reflexive look, as objects of observation, at the researcher's feeling, thinking, and behavior and also at the formative/constructive forces that exert influence on them. My presentation is an anthropological recollection/reflection on the trajectory in which I have been shifted and/or drifted back and forth between a "coaching researcher" and a "coach/workshop facilitator" and the constructive dynamism of structural, social, and discursive forces throughout the process of my research in the field of business coaching and organizational development in Japan.

bios

Yuki Imoto (D.Phil, Oxford) is an anthropologist, and assistant professor at Keio University, Department of Liberal Arts and Foreign Languages at the Faculty of Science and Technology. She has been conducting research on education, transnational hybrid identities, and construction of knowledge in the Japanese/global context. Her current project, based on ongoing fieldwork and training in the US and Japan, explores the emerging academic and educational field of Contemplative Studies and the discourses and experiences of mindfulness on which this field is based. She also collaborates with contemplative practitioners in giving experiential workshops both in the university and beyond.

Hiroki Ichinose (D.Phil, Oxford) is an anthropologist, and part-time lecturer at School of Japan Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. After his doctorate research focusing on the implementation process of coaching in the Japanese corporation, he has been facilitating coaching/organization development training workshop at companies, hospitals, and local government organizations. His current research interests include the developmental process of managerial/leadership awareness and the role of external (socially authorized) mediator in constructing a link between organizational requirements and individual motivation.



Sachiko Horiguchi (D.Phil, Oxford) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Temple University Japan Campus. She has conducted research on hikikomori and other youth mental health issues, as well as on education and emerging multiculturalism in contemporary Japan. In recent years, she has been engaged in auto-ethnographic writings and has been involved in anthropology workshops for medical practitioners in Japan.

Yi Zhu (PhD, HKU) is a business anthropologist, and assistant professor at the Faculty of Business Sciences, the University of Tsukuba. She has specialized in corporate culture, corporate identity, and rites and symbol in business. With experience of long-term participant observation in a Japanese company in Hong Kong, her research mainly involves with the cross-cultural comparison of business practices. She applies her academic knowledge in teaching business and ethnography in various programs including MBA program at the University of Tsukuba, and organizes various workshops for business professionals aiming to promote the idea of ethnography in business.